

## One Health in Namibia

One Health (OH) assessment was conducted on all relevant private and public health stakeholders to understand Namibia's current OH practices and challenges. There is no OH institute, but the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) is consulting with various stakeholders, soliciting views on the OH coordination. In effort to better coordinate OH issues in the country, the MoHSS spear-headed the establishment of a Namibia Public Health Institute (NAMPHI). In February 2023, the MoHSS organized an OH stakeholder advocacy meeting, with an objective to enhance a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism. Further actions by the MoHSS supported by COHESA Namibia and various stakeholders, are the development of the OH strategic plan and the development of the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the three key line ministries. The development of the strategic plan is part of the COHESA multiplier current OH capacitation activities and participated fully in the development of the OH country Strategic Plan.

### Activities implemented under COHESA

- Desktop Review (November – December 2022)
- Key Informants Baseline Survey (17/11/22 – 31/01/2023)
- One Day Data Analysis (11<sup>th</sup> of April 2023)
- Focus Group Discussion (17<sup>th</sup> of February 2023)
- Validation Workshop (19/06/2023 – 20/06/2023)
- Media Science Café (8<sup>th</sup> of August 2023)
- Net Mapping Workshop (09/08/2023 – 11/08/2023)
- One Health Strategy Workshop (15/11/2023 – 17/11/2023)
- Participated in the National Health Strategic Plan validation Workshop ( 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024)



### Key findings/lessons/opportunities

Despite the current absence of a structured One Health (OH) body or initiative in Namibia, the concept of OH in Namibia is gaining traction among key stakeholders. Those who participated in the baseline key informant survey to evaluate OH in Namibia recognize the importance of this concept, particularly in light of emerging and re-emerging human, animal, and plant diseases. During the Media Science café the different Media personnel who attended were intrigued by the One Health concept and the efforts of the COHESA Project through the University of Namibia.

### Planned activities (2024-2025)

- Finalization of the One Health Strategic Plan,
- Assist in the development of the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the three key ministries,
- Launch of the One Health Strategic Plan,
- Net Mapping Validation Workshop,
- Finalization of the One Health Advocacy Strategy,
- Development of OH Curriculum,
- Initiation to infuse OH issues in the school syllabus,
- One outreach on One Health with key line ministries

Consortium



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