

One Health in Zambia: coordination, collaboration and implementation

Prior to the establishment of the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), Zambia used to implement its One Health (OH) activities through temporary “Task Forces”, that aimed at specifically responding to specific public health emergencies and threats. However, these got disbanded immediately the “threat” was over. However, the country continued to experience public health threats that required OH coordination, surveillance, preparedness and response apart from the critical need of a viable OH workforce able to operate utilizing a multi-sectoral platform. Consequently, COHESA seeks to assess the adoption and delivery of OH solutions in Zambia.

Activities implemented under COHESA

SUMMARY APPROACH

WP3 OH - EDUCATION training courses

WP 1 - KNOWLEDGE SHARING

2 OH – Virtual Center FAO-OH –
 • REGIONAL TRAINING (SADC – Countries)
 • NATIONAL TRAINING (ZAMBIA)
 Literature Review for One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP)
 Anthrax – Awareness programs, Media Café, Awareness & Advocacy

WP 3 - EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Assisting Private University develop a OH program – [a MSc in OH]-LONG TERM...

SHORT & BRIDGING OH – Courses.

OH - ISSUE based CPDs, OH-Public Health PhD

Engaging Secondary, Primary & Curriculum development Center to introduce OH in Schools

Development:

- Five-year One Health Strategic Plan 2022–2026 for Zambia.
- One-year OH implementation plan
- OH Technical Working Groups

Involvement:

- National Bridging Workshop for OH
- Implementation of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan (NAP) in Zambia.

WP – 4 – OH Delivery

COHESA (accepted by other OH partners - Africa CDC, UKHSA, FAO, WHO, WOA, ANIVO-Z, Breakthrough Trust, UNEP-in Zambia and other key OH agencies)

GOVERNANCE:

- Through OH technical Working groups.
- With other developmental partners.
- Supporting OH activities.

With guidance of the consortium, COHESA undertook the following key activities in Zambia:

- Baseline surveys to understand OH R&I landscape through Desktop reviews, FGDs, KIs and other observational surveys.
- Synthesis, analysis and write-up, including the publication of the assessment results in the CABI-OH Journal
- Contribution of OH Country material towards the OH Observatory [i.e. Anthrax and Cholera outbreaks in Zambia and related COHESA activities]
- COHESA is actively engaged with Key OH actors in Zambia in strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and building their capacity in OH
- COHESA Zambia has been actively involved with ZNPHI in co-organising science cafés with journalists, government entities, education entities research institutes as well as other key OH actors.
- Actively involved in supporting OH courses – for short and long (even postgraduate programmes) term training in Zambia for private and public universities. In addition, actively involved in supporting the benchmarking of OH regional MScOH programme and leveraging on the same to produce a OH-PhD in “Public Health-One Health” at the University of Zambia.
- COHESA Zambia is involved in delivering OH solutions working in association with other key stakeholders.



COHESA-Country Multiplier, Prof. Musso Munyeme and COHESA – OH-Expert and Communication Expert Dr. Raymond Hamoonga appearing on National Television as part of Community engagement on serious issue of OH concerns in Zambia



Part of the National Print Media (Daily Newspaper- Zambia), indicating part of the environmental management as well as decontamination protocols in anthrax affected zones in Zambia. Multi-sectoral engagement of the Department of Wildlife Officials (Dr. David Sqaarre – decontaminating the dead hippos), and COHESA Country Multiplier and Public Health expert (Dr. Lonica Mooya) engaging the media on anthrax issues in the country.

Key findings/lessons/opportunities

Key findings

- OH is a Very Powerful and Integrated concept, approach and way of handling Public Health threats which can save resources and enhance coordination, response and intervention activities in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- When well utilized, the OH approach is efficient and saves/reduces operational costs for central governments (Anthrax outbreak lessons –Zambia), as it on one side adds the combined strengths from all the respective government and supporting agencies.
- Data sharing [Lag-effect, i.e., in Anthrax situation], can save lives, mathematical models from animal and human sectors pinpointed critical intervention routes.
- FLEXIBILITY: “Learnt that the scope of COHESA goes beyond those prescribed in the Work packages, even Standard Countries can go beyond the activities prescribed for them.”

Challenges/ Opportunities

Existence of Silos: Both within & outside sectors silos still exist. OH champions in these sectors have made progress in breaking them.

Communication Channels: OH communication channels hampered by not easily being accepted within and outside sectors-Advocacy needed

Funding inequalities: across sectors hampers collaboration. Some sectors are better funded than others. Under OH, a common basket for all sectors is needed to remove this inequality.

Top-down approach: OH is still considered a top-down concept – there is critical need to get buy-in from ground staff at operational level.

Planned activities (2024-2025)

For COHESA Zambia, the following are the planned activities for 2024-2025;

- COHESA Zambia working with Other Key OH actors in Zambia, among them ZNPHI, FAO, WHO, UNEP as well as with support from the COHESA consortium won Pandemic Fund & Nature for Health (N4H) projects. Several activities associated with these projects have been outlined and COHESA will be playing a key role in these projects.

- COHESA Zambia has been invited by BREAKTHROUGH TRUST to Co-design OH activities for the 2024 activity year.
- COHESA Zambia has been invited by an NGO-ANIVO-Zambia to Co-conduct a vulnerability assessment of areas with high public health emergencies associated with livestock keeping, drought as well as other climate change ramifications.
- Other KEY CORE COHESA activities to be completed in the 2024-2025 year will include the following:

- Finalize and participate in consortium led Net-mapping of OH stakeholders in Zambia [apart from identifying them, assessing their level of influence].
- Participate in consortium led Validation of net-mapping results in a workshop with key stakeholders
- Through training of OH next generation workforce, ensure institutionalizing OH and helping ensure the sustainability [i.e. a number of Public and Private Universities have approached COHESA for assistance with regards development of OH short as well as long term courses and programmes].

ON-ONGOING ACTIVITIES FROM 2023 through to 2024-2025:

- **UNDER -WP2**
 - **One Health Governance:**
 - To Continue strengthening governance structures and mechanisms through evidenced based policy among key actors:
 - i. Involvement in One Health government platforms [Coordinated by ZNPHI]
 - ii. Science Media cafes [Knowledge dissemination and media engagement as conducted under the 2023 activity year]
 - iii. Engagement with other OH stakeholders (National OH actors, OH leaders, enhancement of OH communication, OH advocacy, application for OH projects, involvement in OH management, Actualisation of OH-Health in action – AMR Weeks, -Rabies Day, OH-Day, -Sponsorship of AMR-Secondary and Tertiary School debates and activities.)

UNDER WP 3 & 4:
 Development & Delivery of OH LONG/SHORT Courses

- BRIDGING Courses.
- Co-Delivering National OH programs with ZNPHI & Others...
- Co-designing OH interventions with key OH partners at national, regional as well as international level.

Consortium



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Technical partner

