



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Advocacy Document

The Quadripartite Joint Offer

A call for targeted One
Health investment

**Facilitating the national
uptake of the One Health Joint
Plan of Action to prevent and
control health risks**

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
Ebola	Ebola Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G20	Group of Twenty (international forum for governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union)
G7	Group of Seven (intergovernmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States)
G77	Group of 77 (coalition of developing countries at the United Nations)
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
LMICs	Low- and Middle-Income Countries
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
OH	One Health
OH JPA	One Health Joint Plan of Action
OHHEP	One Health High-Level Expert Panel for the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH)
QPT	Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAH)

SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SE-COMISCA	Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health



Why invest in One Health?

The interconnected health challenges faced by our world today demand a transformative approach—one that unifies efforts to safeguard the health of people, animals, plants, and ecosystems. The One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) represents this vision, offering a roadmap for addressing the root causes of health threats while advancing sustainable development.

The urgency for action is clear. Economic development, while improving many lives, has often come at the cost of human, animal, and ecosystem health. Drivers, such as land-use change, deforestation, intensified agriculture, biodiversity loss, and pollution, compounded by climate change, disrupt ecosystem integrity. These factors increase health risks at the human-animal-environment interface, disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities. The global impacts of health risks including zoonotic diseases (ie. SARS, Ebola, COVID-19), non-infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety issues, neglected tropical and vector borne diseases, along aside environment pressures highlight the devastating consequences of these interconnected crises. They furthermore underscore the necessity of proactive, integrated solutions that move beyond reactive responses and embrace a truly cross-sectoral and multistakeholder approach.

The recurrent cycle of short-term crisis responses highlights the need to embed One Health principles at national and community levels to better prevent, prepare and respond to global and local health risks. A One Health approach demands collaboration across disciplines and sectors and aims to ensure solutions that address upstream causes and pave the way for sustainable health for all.

One Health definition

The [One Health High-Level Expert Panel](#) (OHHLEP) - an advisory group to the Quadripartite - defines One Health as, “an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development”.

Quadrupartite collaboration on One Health

The Quadrupartite collaboration, comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), strengthens global efforts to address health challenges at the human-animal-environment interface.

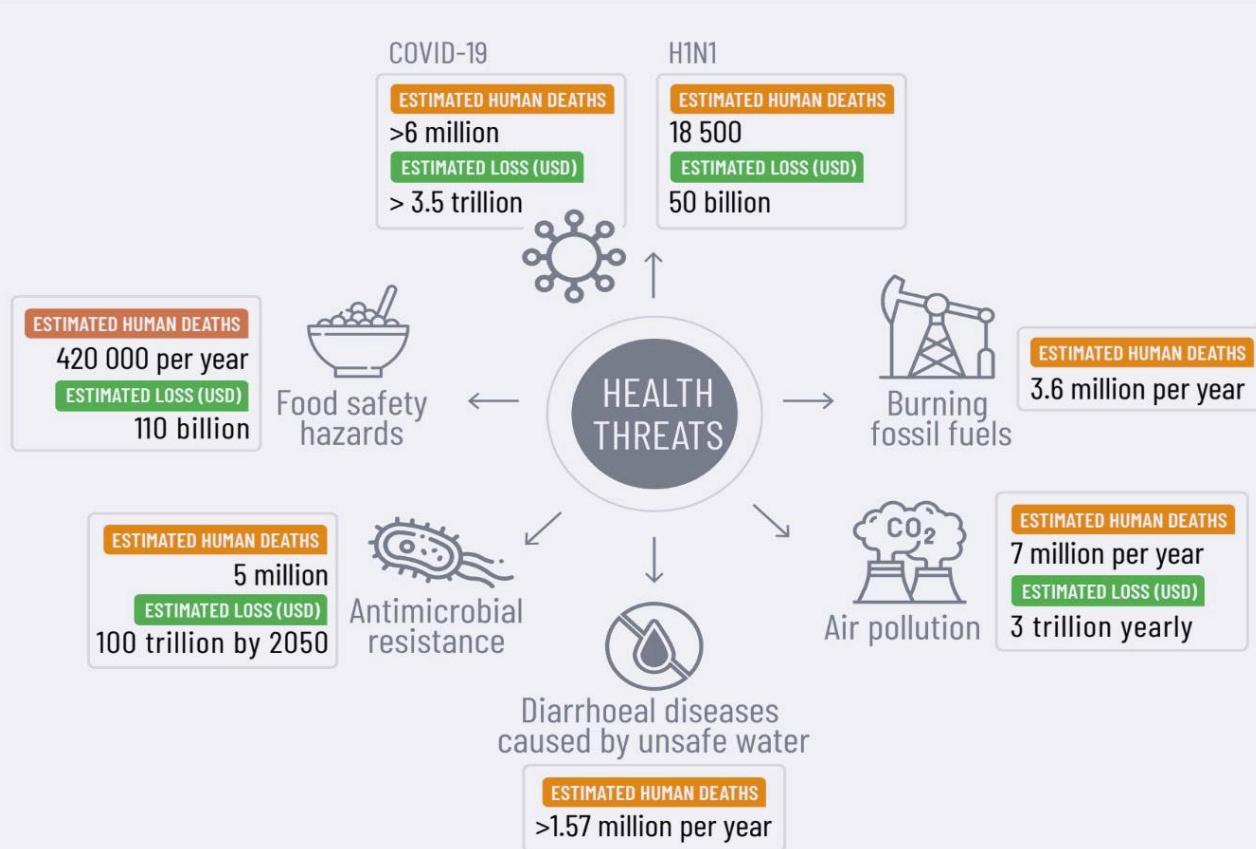
This One Health partnership promotes multi-sectoral solutions for issues like antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases, and food safety while supporting governments via the following three pathways of change of the [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) Theory of Change:

- Pathway 1 – Governance, policy, legislation, financing and advocacy
- Pathway 2 – Organizational and institutional development, implementation and sectoral integration
- Pathway 3 – Data, evidence, information systems and knowledge exchange.

Effectively addressing today's health, food security and environmental challenges requires a multifaceted approach. The One Health approach recognizes that no single solution or sector can act in isolation to tackle the interconnected health of humans, animals, and ecosystems. By fostering proactive, coordinated actions across disciplines, One Health provides a path to well-being for all while advancing economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

Understanding how humans, animals, plants, and the environment interact is essential for preventing health crises and improving resilience. The One Health approach embodies this vision, emphasizing prevention over reaction. A 2022 World Bank report estimates that investing in One Health-guided prevention costs USD 10.3–USD 11.5 billion annually—less than 1 percent of the economic toll of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It also underlines that prevention costs about a third of the cost of preparedness and while the estimated annual rate of return of prevention is up to 86 percent.

The **returns on investment** are clear, for example, preventive investment reduces emergency costs, improves preparedness, and delivers broader co-benefits. These benefits include lower CO₂ emissions with enhanced climate adaptation saving significant funds, strengthened food safety and nutrition, reduced economic impacts of animal diseases, expanded market access, and resilient health systems supported by multisectoral collaboration.

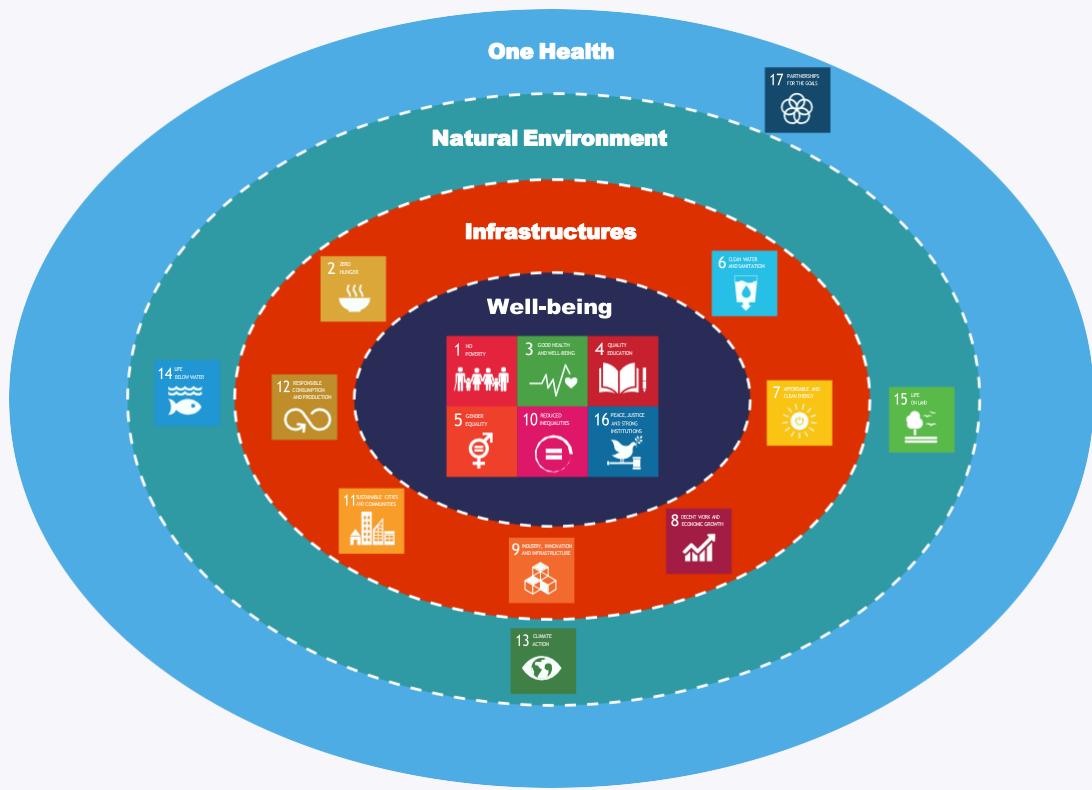


Examples of the impact of recent health threats.

Source: FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAH. 2023. One Health and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework . Guidance for United Nations country teams. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5067en>

The need for more and targeted investment

One Health has achieved widespread global recognition as an indispensable approach for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response as well as cross-sector resilience. By transitioning into integrated, preventive strategies, One Health not only mitigates health risks but also ensures sustainable development that contributes to the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.



Source: Queenan, K. et al. (2017) 'Roadmap to a one health agenda 2030.', CABI Reviews, pp. 5. Figure 1 A framework grouping the SDGs based on their intended outcomes, Adapted from Waage et al.

Landmark commitments from the G20 and G7 through multiple declarations uphold the One Health approach as the only means to prevent future pandemics, safeguarding the health of all. New financial sources such as the vertical fund launched by the G20 – the Pandemic Fund – have helped catalyze domestic budgets, multilateral bank lending schemes, private sector and civil society engagement. However, these funds largely focus on preparedness and response.

In addition, bilateral partners hold health and food security, alongside climate change high on their agendas, and funding has also been mobilized through multi-partner trust funds to leverage Quadripartite expertise. Key examples include the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and Nature for Health, among a myriad of other projects and initiatives supporting One Health. These funds and initiatives will complement each other, ensuring alignment, maximizing synergies, and avoiding duplication for a more coordinated global response.

Yet vast needs remain, particularly in terms of upstream prevention for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where gaps in governance, financing, and capacity development persist, hindering the effective implementation of One Health initiatives.

The Quadripartite in Action

Global perspectives on advancing One Health at the national level

“ The technical support provided by the Quadripartite has significantly impacted our efforts by fostering a unified, multisectoral approach to health security. This collaboration enhances disease prevention, strengthens regional health systems, and promotes regional and sustainable solutions that protect human, animal, and environmental health across West Africa. Thanks to this assistance, we have been able to develop our ECOWAS One Health Regional Strategic plan and provided timely support to National One Health Coordination mechanisms. We are excited about the continued progress and look forward to furthering this collaboration as we roll out the OH JPA in West Africa. ”

Dr. Virgil Kuassi Lokossou, Team Lead of the Health Emergencies and Disaster Management Division, Regional Centre for Disease Surveillance and Control, ECOWAS, West Africa Health Organization

“ For the SE-COMISCA, the Quadripartite plays a key role as a model for synergy in health-related issues, addressing both health and environmental challenges. It also promotes multidisciplinary networks to implement interventions and develop comprehensive solutions tailored to regional needs. Central America and the Dominican Republic work together to tackle shared challenges, with intersectoral collaboration being essential to the One Health approach. ”

Dr. Alejandra Acuña - Executive Secretary of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA)

“ The partnership between Africa CDC and the regional Quadripartite demonstrates the power of One Health collaborations as a transformative approach to safeguarding public health across Africa. By leveraging our expertise across organizations representing the human, animal, and environmental health sectors, Africa CDC and the Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health (QPT) are uniting our collective efforts to address shared threats including zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety and the impacts of climate change in Africa through impactful policies such as the roll out of the OH JPA across the continent. ”

Dr. Yewande Alimi , One Health Unit Lead, Africa CDC Headquarters

“ The Quadripartite movement is a powerful coalition driving the One Health agenda with unprecedented unity and vision. This collaboration is crucial for addressing health challenges holistically and sustainably. By supporting and participating in this collective effort, we can advance One Health initiatives and create a more resilient and integrated global health system for the future. ”

Nitish Debnath, National Coordinator, One Health Bangladesh, Member, One Health High-Level Expert Panel

The Quadripartite Joint Offer

Facilitating the national uptake of the One Health Joint Plan of Action to prevent and control health risks

The Quadripartite has a longstanding partnership dedicated to addressing risks at the human–animal–plant–environment interface. By leveraging global tools, scientific expertise, evidence-based insights, and strategic political advocacy, the partnership acts as a catalyst and drives progress towards these shared goals.

The Quadripartite is uniquely positioned to support One Health implementation through this partnership, providing technical support, acting as a neutral broker to foster in-country actions and cross-country learnings, and overcoming barriers to implementation. Countries have expressed strong demand to enhance their national One Health actions, as confirmed in recent regional Quadripartite One Health workshops and through political declarations.

The Quadripartite calls for greater investment in One Health to support countries in defining and implementing their One Health priorities. This effort will focus on creating inclusive, participatory, and integrated mechanisms to strengthen governance, foster multisectoral coordination, and secure sustainable financing at domestic, regional, and international levels.

The Quadripartite presents a Joint Offer to facilitate national uptake of the One Health Joint Plan of Action for concrete results.

The One Health Joint Plan of Action - guiding framework for national action

To address growing demands for preventing pandemics and other health threats, the Quadripartite jointly developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action. This comprehensive framework aims to strengthen systems and capacities to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to health threats, ultimately improving the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems while advancing sustainable development. The OH JPA promotes cross-sectoral collaboration and fosters a whole-of-society approach, breaking down silos to create an integrated and effective strategy for addressing global health challenges.

The Six OH JPA Action Tracks



Source: FAO, UNEP, WHO & WOAH. 2022. One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026): Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2289en>

National uptake and implementation

The One Health Joint Plan of Action provides a roadmap for coordinated action for prevention of health risks. It is accompanied by an implementation guide outlining three practical pathways, rooted in its theory of change, to help countries operationalize One Health:

The three pathways of the One Health Theory of Change



Source: A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level. Geneva: World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme and World Organisation for Animal Health; 2023.

The Quadripartite facilitates inclusive, country-driven processes to accelerate One Health implementation, underpinned by scientific advice through OHHLEP, to fill critical knowledge gaps by providing scientific advice on how to advance One Health.

Through the Joint Offer, the Quadripartite will assist countries by applying the One Health approach using five steps as outlined in the OH JPA Implementation Guide:

- 1. Situation analysis:** Conduct stakeholder mapping and review existing assessments.
- 2. Governance and coordination:** Establish or strengthen One Health governance and coordination mechanisms.
- 3. Implementation planning:** Prioritize activities and identify resource opportunities.
- 4. Action plan execution:** Implement national One Health activities and interventions.
- 5. Review and learning:** Share lessons learned and integrate findings into future actions.

The Quadripartite will use the following key principles when engaging with countries:

- **Country demand and ownership:** Cross-sectoral written request from LMICs to enhance national and local governance frameworks to collaboratively drive One Health implementation, engaging local communities, including indigenous peoples.
- **Institutional capacity gaps:** Assessments providing evidence for strengthening organizational and institutional arrangements for operationalizing One Health while fostering whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.
- **Data and knowledge needs:** Government request for innovative, evidence-based solution and knowledge-sharing across sectors.
- **Catalytic resources and investments:** level of need for support to leveraging resources, accessing innovative financing mechanisms, and connecting country needs with investor interests.
- **Equity and gender equality:** Focus on inclusive approaches that prioritize equity, gender equality, and protection.
- **Cooperation and shared responsibility:** Commitment to collaboration within countries, regional organizations, international partners, and relevant stakeholders to support national One Health efforts.
- **South-South cooperation and learning:** Promoting the exchange of experiences, best practices, and lessons learned between countries, recognizing that solutions effective in one context may need adaptation in others.

The Ask - catalytic funding to support countries

Support to at least ten countries spanning all regions

Implementation Timeframe: 3 to 5 years

Based on a matrix of joint services outlined in the table below, these funds will serve as a foundation for countries to demonstrate measurable impact within three to five years. This will set the stage for sustained action and impact through further domestic and international investment leverage.

Through an expression of interest, countries will be able to access targeted support based on their needs and selection of Quadripartite technical assistance and services.

Impact: Countries are better prepared to mitigate global and local health threats using an evidence-based One Health approach, leveraging resources across sectors, disciplines and stakeholders.

Outcome: Countries adopt/adapt the One Health Joint Plan of Action through enhanced cross-sectoral collaboration and effective advocacy with political will and technical support to leverage investment for sustained action

Service 1: Contextualized implementation	Service 2: Knowledge & evidence	Service 3: Political engagement	Service 4: Investment leverage
Countries adopt/adapt a One Health approach guided by the One Health Joint Plan of Action Implementation Guide	Countries contribute and access knowledge and evidence base is strengthened to improve One Health practices	Countries set up or strengthen national One Health governance and intergovernmental platforms to solidify political will and to mobilize investments	Countries leverage sustainable domestic and international investments

Quadripartite coordination at global, regional and national levels

Countries strengthen their institutional capacity to fast-track and scale up national implementation and monitoring of their OH JPA and address systemic barriers to implementation	Countries benefit from One Health scientific and advisory groups (e.g. OHHLEP), as well as access to communities of practice i.e., through the One Health Knowledge Nexus and other platforms	Countries influence high-level political spaces such as G77 and China, G20, G7, UNGA and HLPF as well as relevant regional forums	Countries secure domestic and global investments to enable and sustain One Health actions, through the identification of financing opportunities and facilitated collaborative dialogue with potential investors
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Indicative examples for investment			
Preventing health risks through enhancing national cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, coordination, communication and capacity development			
Build capacity for One Health implementation, through strengthening/ establishing national and regional One Health coordination platforms, and workforce development training for One Health professionals	Support the deliverables of OHHLEP and create synergies with other scientific advisory groups to develop cross-sectoral targeted research that fills outstanding knowledge gaps	Convene and advocate for high level political commitments through engagement with political forums and the One Health Group of Friends	Engage with the investment particularly domestic resources, multilateral investment banks and the private sector
Refine the process/tools to support national One Health planning, implementation and M&E, and accompany countries to adapt and adopt these tools and guidance to support One Health implementation	Strengthen cross-sectoral learning platforms, i.e., the One Health Knowledge Nexus including a dashboard documenting tools, trainings and country best practices, to enhance knowledge sharing and integration	Foster exchange through science-policy platforms to translate the One Health approach into policy action in countries	Develop evidence-based national One Health investments strategies, with a clear set of prioritized investment opportunities
Support countries to refine/develop and implement a One Health National Plan, including by convening national and regional One Health workshops and developing methodology and standardized protocols for national implementation	Document and disseminate country-based good practices	Strengthen advocacy and awareness raising to the general public on One Health, including youth engagement for One Health implementation	Develop the return of investment for One Health and economic evaluation model

The Quadripartite global and regional coordination mechanisms will jointly oversee the support and engage with at least 10 countries to submit expressions of interest. The Quadripartite will synergize with ongoing One Health projects and programmes, adding value and cohesion to the work with the aim of longer-term strategy, capacity and investment leverage.

The Quadripartite will ensure interventions are demand-driven and tailored to resource availability, capacity, and geographical balance. A transparent and equitable Expression of Interest process will guide country selection, based on set criteria such as vulnerability to health threats, political will, equity, gender equality, and commitment to sustainable resource mobilization.

Resource Partners supporting the Joint Offer will be invited to join a platform to receive regular updates on progress and advise on strategic direction for this initiative. The Quadripartite also welcomes in-kind contributions such as secondments, political support and advocacy.

Conclusion

Investing in the One Health Joint Plan of Action is not just a financial commitment; it is a pledge to protect the well-being of all by addressing the root causes of health threats in a sustainable, collaborative manner.

With an investment, we can catalyze transformative action in at least 10 countries over a period of 3 – 5 years, to better safeguard human, animal, and ecosystem health, building a foundation for lasting resilience and sustainability.

Useful Resources

- [The One Health Joint Plan of Action](#)
- [A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level](#)
- Learn more about One Health initiatives of the Quadripartite here: [FAO](#), [UNEP](#), [WHO](#) and [WOAH](#).

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