COOPERATION & ACHIEVEMENTS

PARTNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

158
Total number of PPOH supported Trainings

93 (58,86%)
Training of trainers

69 (43,67%)
Cross-sectoral

3717
Total number of participants

2260 (60,8%) Share of male participants

1457 (39,2%) Share of female participants

SEEG

GERMAN EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TEAM

Using the' One Health' approach, the German Epidemic Preparedness Team (SEEG) supports partner countries and organisations concerning disease outbreaks worldwide flexibly and at short notice. SEEG as part of the GIZ Global Programme for Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health collaborates with Robert Koch Institute, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Friedrich Loeffler Institute, and Charité University Hospital. As of today, it has coordinated 65 deployments in more than 35 countries.

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Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32+36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E Ruth.Schumacher@giz.de
I One Health: preventing and combating pandemics worldwide - giz.de

Responsible:
Ruth Schumacher (Head of programme), Liva Haensel (Head of production)

Authors:
Liva Haensel, Katherine Argote, Eva Stübel

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Bonn, 2024

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PAVING THE WAY FOR ONE HEALTH

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME PANDEMIC PREVENTION AND RESPONSE, ONE HEALTH

CAMBODIA

HIGHLIGHT 1

SMALL DOG, GREAT DANGER: BATTLING RABIES IN CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, GIZ is collaborating with the local government to help reach its goal of eliminating rabies with a crosssectoral approach. This is crucial because the risk of infection is not only high but deadly and often threatens people within their own homes.

BATTAMBANG. "Our dog was still very small. That's why I never worried that he might have rabies," says Soeun Oun, who lives in the province of Battambang in Cambodia. But suddenly, the dog behaved strangely. "The puppy ran around wildly and tried to bite people in the street," he remembers. And it got worse. When Soeun Oun worked in the rice field one day, his wife called him: the puppy had bitten six family members and a neighbour.

In Cambodia, an estimated 800 people die from rabies every year. Most transmissions originate from domestic dogs. The Southeast Asian country inhabits many of them: on average, there is one dog per three people. To protect people from a fatal infection after a bite, they require post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), which aims to control the spread of the disease. However, this depends on sufficient awareness and access to adequate healthcare.

With the support of the GIZ global project, an effective rabies control programme has been piloted in different provinces in Cambodia. The intervention is based on the international and national rabies elimination strategy which relies on the One Health approach. This approach connects the animal, human, and environmental health sectors to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases, particularly zoonoses. Since 2021, 525 people have been trained by the project across sectors in Cambodia, and many more have been sensitised to the issue.

Soeun Oun's family was saved thanks to the rabies initiative jointly implemented by the local human and animal health authorities as well as GIZ. "I am very happy that the field officer reacted immediately! Without him, I would have been very afraid for my family," Soeun Oun says.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE:
The Rabies Vaccination Campaign in Battambang / Cambodia

The Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health

The Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (PPOH) started in 2021 to work with national, regional and international partners to take measures to better prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics with a One Health approach. The programme continues from September 2024 as "Programme Pandemic Resilience, One Health".

It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Gmb

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HIGHLIGHT 2

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

"DISEASES ARE INVISIBLE, BUT THEY CAN CROSS BORDERS"

In Tanzania, a One Health Coordination Unit has been established at the East African Community Secretariat that seeks to work with all eight EAC partner states' governments. In parallel, capacities among the regional One Health workforce have been developed, such as in a rapid response team for epidemics and pandemics. Furthermore, Uganda and Tanzania address animal and zoonotic diseases across borders better by strengthening their coordination.

"Seasonal migration of wildlife within the transboundary conservation areas, and the frequent cross-border movement of large herds of cattle, sheep, and goats contributes to the heightened risk of transmission of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses," says Dr David Balikowa. Along with his colleagues, the Senior Livestock Officer at the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is one of the driving forces in implementing the One Health approach at a regional level. With the help of GIZ in developing and implementing the regional One Health Strategy (2022–2027), the EAC managed to devise a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania that was signed last year by the respective Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries.

The MoU changed the health of both animals and people for the better. The non-governmental organisation Vétérinaires sans Frontières Germany (VSFG) helped strengthen the cooperation between the two countries at a local level. The VSFG project – which has been enabled through the support of GIZ – works on enhancing the cooperation between all parties involved as well as surveillance and control of Rift Valley Fever and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) at the Tanzania-Uganda epizone. The two fatal diseases mainly affect goats and sheep, which leads to a huge economic loss for their owners, many of them women.

"Diseases are invisible, but they cross borders," Dr Joshua Waiswa explains. Waiswa, who coordinated the project, highlights the possible impact of livestock movement on disease spread. The support of the EAC Secretariat has inspired him. Today, Uganda and Tanzania use the same laboratory for diagnostics and have agreed on the same standards, he says and adds: **"There is no need to import vaccines over long distances anymore and samples can be tested in nearby laboratories across borders. We experts from Uganda and Tanzania are able to share our experiences today."**

A great foundation for further cooperation.

READ MORE ON JOSHUA WAISWA´S WORK AND THE EAC IN OUR ONLINE BROCHURE HIGHLIGHTS

About the EAC

The GIZ Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (PPOH) cooperated in the East African Region with the GIZ Programme "Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region" (PanPrep). It has worked across sectors and cooperated closely with key stakeholders such as the Quadripartite Alliance, the East African Community (EAC), the Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention and the Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN). Through implementing the One Health approach across different institutions, and fostering collaboration from national, regional, and continental to global levels, the PPOH utilised all synergies.

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HIGHLIGHT 3

BOLIVIA

IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON

In the Amazon, many health risks threaten its inhabitants as well as animals, flora, and fauna. A newly started surveillance system aims to overcome this risk by empowering the community.

In Bolivia, the Rurrenabaque and San Buenaventura communities live far away from urban settings and infrastructure. The two – a village and a small city – are located next to the Beni River in the Amazon, 450 kilometres from the country's capital La Paz. Facing an increase in fatal diseases, local Indigenous community leader Gladys Ybaguari has been alarmed for some time. 'In the Amazon riverbanks, we mainly feed on fish, but lately, with gold exploration, the river has been contaminated with mercury, and the fish are getting sick, which affects our health when we consume them,' she says.

The communities like hers of Rurrenabaque face increasing cases of Dengue, Leishmaniasis, Leptospirosis, and more recently also Hantavirus.

To address the situation, Gladys plays a key role in preventing epidemics for her indigenous community. As a focal point of the new Community-Based Surveillance network, the Tacana woman functions as an important link in San Buenaventura when it comes to handling disease outbreaks.
By reporting health cases to a network of interconnected information units, Gladys contributes to preventing wider outbreaks. The pilot model – implemented by the Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health – already bears the first promising fruits: cases of fish, parrots, and poultry mortality events were reported to higher authorities and successfully tracked. By following up on these diseases and getting back to their causes, the Community-Based Surveillance network enables the communities to develop local mechanisms for early detection and rapid response autonomously.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE:
How One Health protects the Amazon

'Working under the One Health approach helps to prevent diseases that can affect us humans and our animals,' Gladys is convinced. 'The GIZ workshops taught us how to detect and fight these diseases. Today, through the new Community Surveillance System, we inform each other about any health or disease case and transmit the information to doctors, health centres, laboratories, and other relevant institutions,' she says.

In a region where veterinary services are rare, the network could serve as a role model for similar regions in the future worldwide.

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HIGHLIGHT 4

CAMEROON

HAND IN HAND AT ALL LEVELS

Cameroon is one of the first African countries which has mobilised to implement the One Health approach by developing a National Plan of Action. The plan involves collaboratively tackling zoonoses and food safety issues. By collaborating with four global organisations that aim to guide countries in addressing complex One Health challenges, Cameroon ensures the plan's comprehensiveness.

As coordinator of a regional fund for health promotion in the rural northern region of Cameroon, Adamawa, Madame Aïssatou Fanta knows what One Health means in practice: "We were invited to one of the meetings of the GIZ Programme," she says. "The One Health approach enabled us to bring all actors together."

"As this is a holistic approach, we realised that health is not just about humans, but also about animals and the environment," Aïssatou adds. This was a big plus for her organisation, which primarily works with rural communities to promote public health services. Numerous training sessions on hygiene, dairy farming, and infection prevention at markets were held through Aïssatou Fanta's Fonds Regional in cooperation with several partner organisations of GIZ in Adamawa and central Cameroon.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE:
Validation of the One Health Action Plan

At the same time, an exciting process with a lasting impact on the country is also taking place at a global level. The Global Programme Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health supported Cameroon to align its National Plan of Action with the One Health Joint Plan of Action of the Quadripartite. The Quadripartite – the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – set out to guide countries in coordinating and collaborating among the human, veterinary, environmental health, and agricultural sector.
If Cameroon – a country with a rich biodiversity on the one hand, and many zoonotic diseases and challenges due to climate change on the other hand – is well prepared, humans, animals and the whole environment will benefit hand in hand.

By building on developments concerning the OH approach that the country had already started in 2012 – still with a focus on zoonotic diseases at that time – GIZ built a bridge between the national and global level and accompanied all the parties involved in the process.

This year, Cameroon collaboratively developed and endorsed its National Action Plan on One Health in alignment with the Joint Plan of the Quadripartite. "Being context-specific and addressing the needs and gaps in the country, it both guides national actors and international cooperation," Elisabeth Dibongue, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Cameroon's OH Platform, summarises. However, achieving this goal still requires a few more steps at the political level.

For Aïssatou Fanta, the woman from rural Adamawa, One Health already got real. "To make the One Health approach become alive here on the ground, we managed to set up dialogue structures in the communities," she concludes with satisfaction. Until the end of August 2024, her organisation will implement trainings on raising awareness among 3,750 market traders and educate multipliers. Like the politicians in Yaoundé who sat at the table to develop Cameroon´s National Action Plan, she is already realising this for her region, step by step.

HIGHLIGHT 5

SELVA MAYA

CONNECTING ACADEMIA AND ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION

In times of climate change, deforestation, and increasing health risks, there is a crucial need for extensive cooperation among all affected parties. In the Selva Maya region, GIZ taps into ancestral knowledge and indigenous traditions as part of its innovative and environmentally friendly strategy.

"Now the families in the communities know what to do," says Prof Dr Carlota Monroy. "By painting their houses with lime and using bed nets with a repellent made from a mixture of fermented plant leaves, they will reduce the number of mosquitoes in the future."

Carlota Monroy is a long-term researcher at the University of San Carlos (USAC) in Guatemala City. As a pioneer for vector control using new approaches in EcoHealth to prevent zoonotic diseases amongst marginalised populations, she led a research team into two rural Mayan villages in the Petén region of Guatemala. The area partially belongs to what people call "Selva Maya," a region with ten million hectares of rainforest containing 23 different ecosystems extending across the borders of Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico. In this region, maintaining a One Health focus that connects the human, animal, and environmental sectors is even more vital.

In Petén, Carlota Monroy's team tested the application of a lime product on the walls of dwellings in the two villages. The lime product, made from natural ingredients traditionally used by the indigenous Maya population, has proved to repel mosquitoes responsible for deadly malaria infections. "The greatest burden for humans comes from the diseases Dengue, Leishmaniasis, and Chagas," Carlota says.

To address this issue, GIZ unites actors from civil society, science, and politics at the regional and national levels. This even involved the local context, such as in the case of Carlota Monroy's research in rural Guatemala: "We brought employees from the Ministry of Health into the two villages. Through actively participating in this pilot project, they could see with their own eyes that there are alternative options for an effective vector control," she says.

In addition, GIZ delivers trainings to traditional midwives who serve as a connection between indigenous pregnant women, their communities, and the national health care system. The establishment of the national One Health platforms in Guatemala and Mexico is another highlight while also supporting the crucial regional stakeholder platform "Alianza One Health Selva Maya". The "Alianza" has been active during the regional zoonotic disease prioritisation workshop coordinated jointly with the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and, conducted collaboratively with One Health sector ministries from Belize, Mexico, and Guatemala.

Carlota hopes that in the aftermath of the project, the use of indigenous traditions and ancestral knowledge – methods Selva Maya's early inhabitants strived for thousands of years ago already – will find their way into policy papers and national health strategies: for better healthcare for animals, the environment, and humans alike.

VISIT THE ALIANZA ONE HEALTH SELVA MAYA

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