



Multisectoral Health Security Bulletin

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EDITORIAL



Esteemed readers, welcome to the third edition of the Multisectoral Health Security Bulletin. As you are all aware, this bulletin is released every three months with the intention of highlighting significant implementation developments, successes and best practices, as well as news, events and knowledge-based publications related to Ethiopia's National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).

Dear readers, thank you so much for the kind words and comments you have sent our way. We made an effort to make the third bulletin more readable and engaging than the two previous versions with the aid of your honest input. We hope to give you a clear view of what is happening around national health security and related agendas in the nation; the bulletin is multisectoral and highlights actors from diverse sectors and industries.

In this third edition, we've included information on the ongoing NAPHS review workshops, implementation of 7-1-7 timeliness metrics and a message from the Ethiopian Wild Life and Conversation Agency. We also feature the findings of legal analyses in the area of IHR legal frameworks, as well as regional workshops to revive and establish One Health Taskforces in the Southern, Sidama, Direi Dawa, and Hareri regions. The establishment of a strategy for the prevention and control of wildlife-livestock illness, training of good emergency management procedures and the activities of a canine vaccination campaign in the metropolis are just a few of the initiatives we discuss in this issue.

The One Health strategy requires collaboration across many industries and academic fields. To promote the best possible health for people, animals and the environment, we must work together harmoniously to achieve our goals. This bulletin aims to reflect and enhance our capacity for collaboration. Therefore, as always, we value your feedback. Please contact us with any comments, suggestions, notes, or feedback at ethionaphs@gmail.com.

Message from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority



The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) is a legally established government organization given the authority to undertake conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in Ethiopia. Its mission is to scientifically conserve and manage Ethiopian wildlife and its habitats in collaboration with concerned bodies for the ecological, economic and social benefits of the present generation, and pass to the next generation as a heritage.

The Authority believes that sustainable conservation of wildlife is possible through shared responsibility from the government, private sector, the community, and other stakeholders. NAPHS is crucial for sectoral coordination in meeting these aims. The health of domestic animals, wild animals, and the ecosystem are critically linked to the mitigation of cross-cutting health issues including avian flu, CDV, CPV, and other outbreaks including the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been decades since the organization started the dog and Ethiopian Wolf vaccination campaign, which played a crucial role in mitigating the spread of the virus. Collaborative outbreak investigations and surveillance were conducted in response to health threats.

NAPHS is deeply rooted in the One Health approach and has been playing a critical role in multisectoral coordination. Therefore, I am confident that, if we cooperate with NAPHS, we will be able to do our part for the health security of our country and the world.

Kumara Wakjira
Director General, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority

Status of NAPHS Implementation, 2021/22

Ethiopia has been implementing the NAPHS for the last four years which has been structured using the four main thematic areas of IHR-health security (pillars) and 19 technical areas. The technical areas are also further detailed in 568 action-based activities. The activities were developed using country-specific priority criteria and assigned to about 14 sectors, according to their mandates.

Based on the 2014 EC (2021/2022) NAPHS performance, EPHI in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives has successfully held a workshop on August 26-27 to assess implementation status. Following the workshop, the operational plan for 2022/2023 (or 2015 Ethiopian Fiscal Year) is under development.

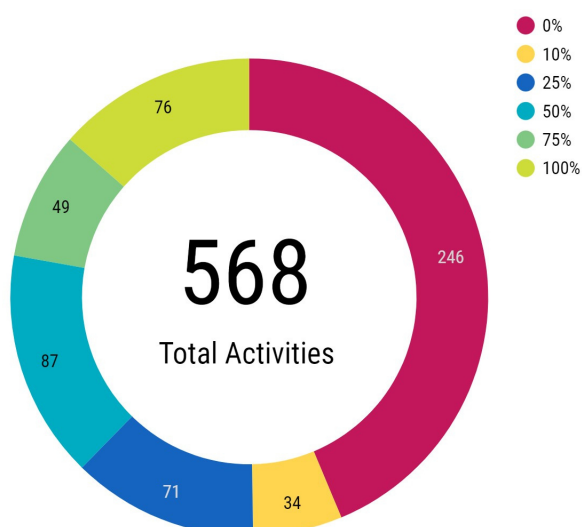
This report highlights the achievements gained so far, the gaps that need due attention, and the focus areas for the coming implementation year to accelerate the country's capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks at their source.

Accordingly, all actors are expected to review their progress on an ongoing basis and identify priority actions for 2022/2023 planning based on existing bottlenecks.

NAPHS Implementation Status

The findings presented below are based on the output generated from the NAPHS tracker tool that was updated using data submitted prior to and during the workshop. The performance of each activity is evaluated and labelled using the percentage and level of implementation that includes: 0% - Not-started, 10%- Pending, 25% - Just-started, 50% - On-going, 75% - Advanced and 100% - Completed.

Number of activities by implementation status category



As shown in Figure 1, among the total of 568 NAPHS activities, 76 activities (13.5%) have been completed; 49 (8.7%) are in advanced stage, and 87 (15.5%) are ongoing. On the other hand, 71 (9.3%) activities are just started and 34 (6%) are pending. The majority of activities, 246 (43.6%), have not been started. These will need our focus and commitment during the planning of the 2022-2023 year.

Fig 1: NAPHS activities implementation status (by % of completion)

Prevent:

Among 285 activities under the pillar, only 33 (12 %) were completed, 14 (5%) are in advanced stage and 52 (18 %) are ongoing. 48.6% of activities are either not started or data not filled.

Detect:

Out of 111 activities, only 10 (9 %) were completed, 17 (15.3%) are in advanced stage and 15 (14 %) are ongoing; 36 (32.6%) activities that either not started or data not filled.

Respond:

Of 95 activities, 27 (28.4 %) were completed, 12 (13%) are in advanced stages and 15 (16%) ongoing. The rest are below 50% complete, including those 23 (24%) activities that are either not started or data was not filled at all.

Other IHR Hazards:

Among 76 activities 6 (8%) are completed, 6 (8%) are in advanced stage, and 5 (7%) ongoing; whereas the rest are below 50 % including the 48 (63%) activities that are either not started or data was not filled at all.

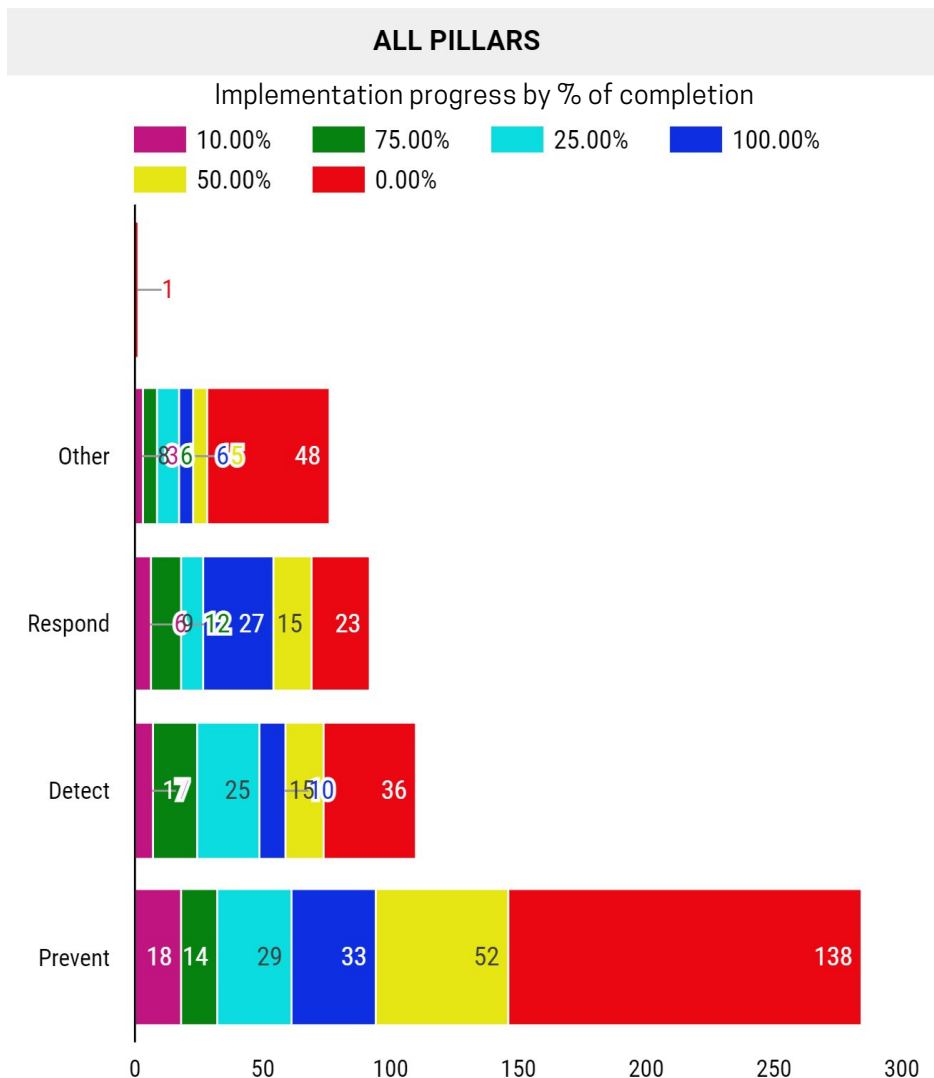


Fig 2: NAPHS activities implementation status with respective pillars, September 2022.

The figure in the next page displays the level of implementation of NAPHS's activities as well as whether they are aligned to each sector's plan, based on the 19 technical areas. There is a relatively encouraging achievement and alignment with sector plans for anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), Immunization, National legislation (NaLS), preparedness, Real Time Surveillance (RTS), Risk communication technical areas, and Zoonotic Disease. This implementation status, therefore, can be a reminder to all the sectors and other responsible bodies the need for more focused and coordinated effort in 2015 EC (2022/203) implementation year .

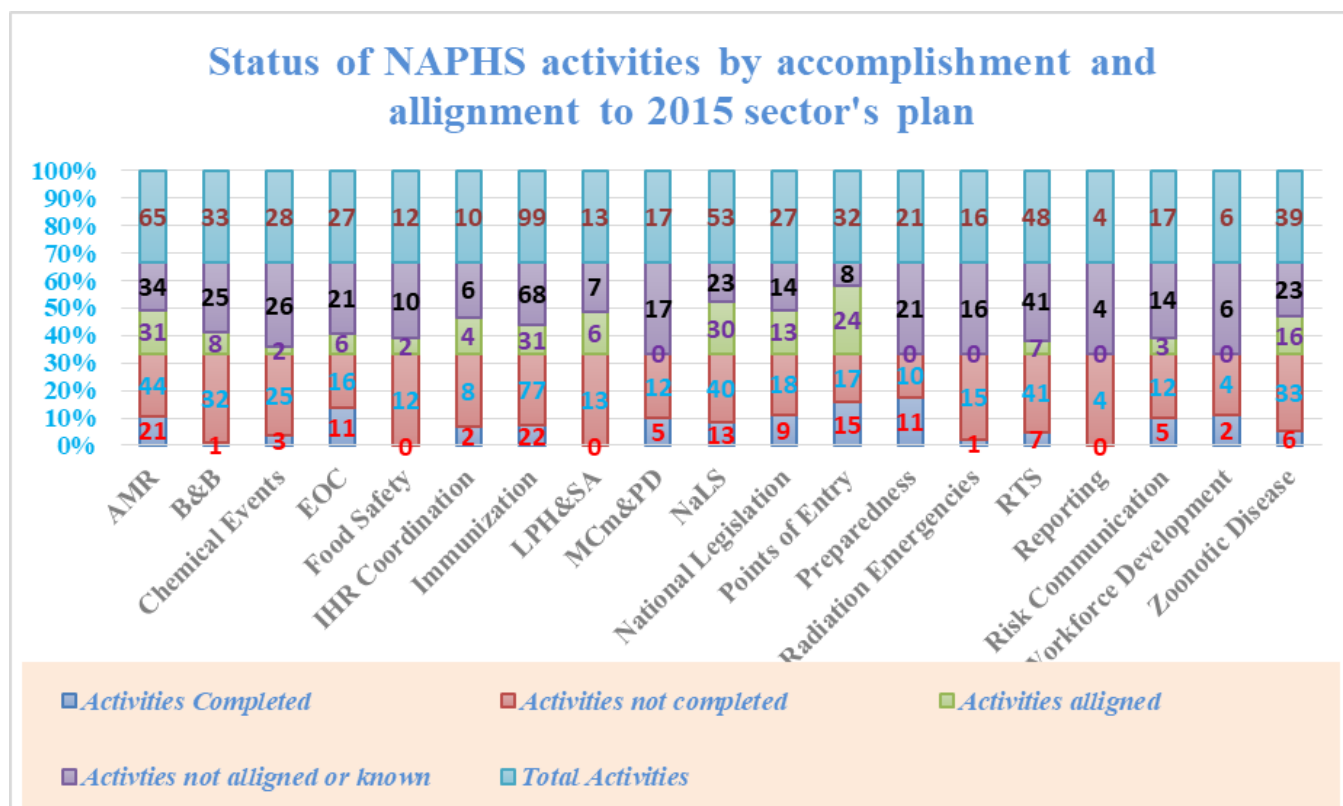


Fig 3: NAPHS activities in relation to their level of accomplishment and alignment to 2015 sector specific plan.

Conclusion and next steps

- Despite the nature of the activities which make their implementation and monitoring challenging, data compiled for the fourth quarter shows that there was encouraging progress in 2014 EC (3rd quarter, 2022). Data consistency and completeness, for some of the technical areas, and attaching documents as evidence were some of the strengths observed during the period.
- Still, **on average only 37.4 % of activities fall within the range of 50%- 100% completed.** This is distributed for Prevent, Detect, Respond, and Other IHR pillars at 35 %, 38 %, 57 % and 22.4 % respectively. The majority of the activities, 246 (43.6%) have been categorized as “Not started;”, however, **this may be due to incomplete data which is the key challenge in tracking the progress and also a limitation of this report.**
- What next? In order to improve the implementation of the activities and build the IHR capacity we need, it is important to ensure the following key outputs:
 - Activities are prioritized and aligned with the sector-based plan and resources allocated accordingly.
 - Designated focal person for each technical areas/action
 - Clarity of responsibility among sectors

And, these outputs should be monitored based on their implementation level, as well as the performance of the NAPHS in the physical year.

Multisectoral NAPHS Review Workshop



A multisectoral workshop on national health security held at Adama town from August 26 - 27, 2022 to review last year's implementation of NAPHS as well as to prepare the EFY 2015 NAPHS operational plan.

Ato Aschalew Abayneh, the Ethiopia Public Health Institute's Deputy General Director, at the opening of the workshop, emphasized the necessity for comprehensive multisectoral coordination and collaboration for the country's general health and health-related activities. The deputy director further stated that the various sectors' cooperation and collaboration are critical and required for the successful implementation of the NAPHS.



Ato Aschalew also emphasized that the NAPHS is a conducive and convenient platform that may allow many sectors to collaborate and support one another in order to fulfill the goals and objectives of their respective organizations. As a result, the deputy general director went on to clarify that all NAPHS sectors must pay proper attention to NAPHS activities as well as organize and assess all of their individual health-related activities jointly.

Dr. Feyesa Regassa, IHR national focal point, gave an overview of national health security, IHR capacity building, and NAPHS implementation in Ethiopia. At the workshop, the EFY 2014 NAPHS implementation status by different sectors was presented and a discussion was conducted by the workshop participants.

Additionally, participants submitted information on the priority activities within their sectors to be included in the NAPHS 2015 EC annual operational plan during talks on the process for creating the EFY 2015 NAPHS operational plan.

Campaign to Immunize Dogs Against Rabies Launched



The Ministry of Agriculture recently announced the launching of the Addis Ababa city dog rabies immunization program to protect the city's dogs from rabies infections.

At the program's launch, Yohannes Girma, the deputy minister advisor for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, underlined the significance of national coordination in the combat against rabies. He expressed his belief that the preventative effort will have a significant outcome on the overall effectiveness of the nation's canine vaccination program.



Team members from the Ministry of Agriculture vaccinating dogs against rabies

Dr. Sisay Getachew, veterinary public health director, stated that in the prevention and elimination of canine rabies, community mobilization and awareness creation among the general public can play an important role in the success of the campaign. The director further said that all actors are expected to play their roles and work in harmony and coordination.

According to Ato Alex Demeke, director of animal development for the Addis Ababa city administration of peasants and city farming, the city administration is now working with both domestic and stray dogs. The vaccination program started on July 25 and lasted for five consecutive days in nine of the metropolis' sub-cities. Ethiopia plans to eradicate and control canine rabies by the end of 2030.

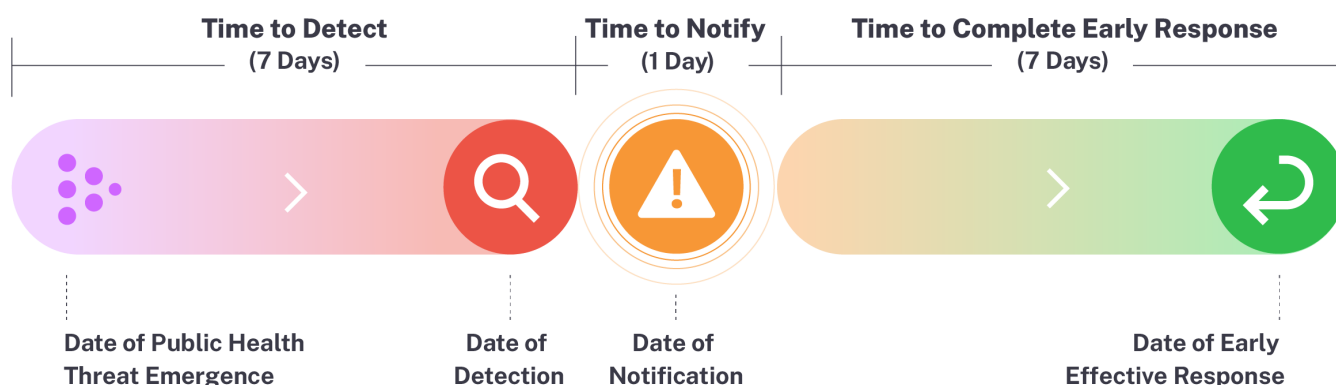
Piloting the 7-1-7 Timeliness Framework: Improving timeliness of detection, reporting & response to priority public health events



The faster we detect and notify any suspected outbreak, and rapidly implement response measures; we will not only avoid the spread of outbreaks but also minimize their devastating impact on lives, livelihoods, and socioeconomic and health systems. Finding, reporting and controlling every outbreak faster no matter where it happens is critical to ensuring health security. In 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) revised the International Health Regulations (IHR) to create a better framework for reporting diseases.

One of the most urgent priorities in health emergency management is establishing a strong and functioning system for early warning and surveillance and risk monitoring to rapidly detect and notify acute health threats. To this effect, timeliness is an important criterion for evaluating the performance of these systems. However, evaluation of performance of timeliness for detection, notification and effective response would be very difficult without a consistent and standard method to measure and analyze trend across the early warning, surveillance, and response functions.

The 7-1-7 metric proposes a simple set of three timeliness metrics with corresponding targets: 7 days to detect a suspected outbreak; 1 day to inform the appropriate national public health authorities to initiate an investigation; and 7 days to complete the initial effective response action items.



7-1-7 Milestones and Timeliness Metrics



Continuous monitoring and review of timeliness targets against standard and clearly defined timeliness measures such as the 7-1-7 metrics can help capture key bottlenecks related to the speed of detection, notification, and response to acute health events or risks and evaluate progress over time. Such standard timeliness measurements can also help health authorities to identify deficiencies across the early warning and surveillance functions and to ensure accountability at all levels.

As part of the 7-1-7 pilot project at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives, a retrospective review of nine public health events in Ethiopia during 2019, 2020 and 2021 has shown gaps in timely detecting, notifying and implementing effective response. The findings included:

- Time to detection ranged from one day to 34 days (Target, 7 Days)
- Time for Notification ranged from few hours to 71 days (Target, 1 Day)
- Incomplete information on the time taken to complete effective response (Target, 7 Days)

One of the objectives of the 7-1-7 metrics are enhancing situation awareness (ESA) for health threats. This is an approach linking risk monitoring with preparedness actions, where health authorities monitor risks for known or emerging public health threats and implement preparedness actions in response to those identified risks. This helps local health officials to identify imminent health threats and initiate timely and/or preparedness actions in response to risk, instead of waiting for the actual event; for example, implementing preparedness actions in response to the first risk instead of waiting for the first disease or event.

The PHEM Preparedness and Capacity Building Directorate in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives has selected a total of 23 woredas to pilot enhanced situational awareness or linking risk monitoring for preparedness action approach. Twelve woredas from three regions namely Amhara, Benishangul Gumz and Sidama regions and 11 woredas from Addis Abba city will pilot this risk monitoring approach for eight priority hazards. To this effect, consultative meetings have been conducted with relevant health offices and implementing woredas in the last two months 2022.



A consultative workshop with regional PHEM coordinators on linking risk monitoring approach to strengthen preparedness for priority public health events, Bahir Dar, May 2022.

Wildlife-Livestock Disease Prevention & Control Strategy Development Agreement Signed



The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority Ecological Monitoring and Research Directorate, on behalf of Awash National Park and Fentale Woreda Animal Health Center, has signed an MOU on Wildlife-Livestock disease prevention and control strategy development.

To properly prevent and cure diseases affecting both domestic and wild animals as well as other connected difficulties, Ethiopia does not have the required wild animal health professionals for the protected region. Therefore, working along with other sectors can help to safeguard both domestic and wild animals' well-being.



In light of this, specialists from the EWCA Monitoring and Research Unit and the Fentale District Animal and Fisheries Resource Office visited the region near the Awash National Park and the Fentale woreda from May 4 to May 21, 2022.

The memorandum of agreement was formed to lessen the consequences of disease transmission among wild and domestic animals as well as humans after a thorough visit to the area and in-depth discussion. As a result, the parties agreed to immediately share information, carry out continued surveillance, and cooperate as per the agreement.

Assessment of IHR Legal Frameworks

The legal frameworks for domestication and implementation of IHR programs in Ethiopian public health were assessed.

Ato Aschalew Abaynehe, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, in his opening remarks at the assessment findings report meeting stressed the significance of the study in identifying the weaknesses and strengths of the IHR legal frameworks in the implementation of international health regulations.

The meeting, according to the Deputy Director General, will reveal crucial gaps as well as create ideal conditions for legal work to be done more effectively and efficiently.

"The assessment of IHR legal frameworks is anticipated to identify significant shortcomings as well as advantageous environments and circumstances that will make IHR legal frameworks to be more productive and successful in the implementation of international health regulations."



Ato Aschalwe Abaynehe, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, at the opening of the assessment findings meeting

Ato Melke Tadesse, director of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute Law director stated that the meeting feedback and suggestions will be considered, and the draft will be presented to all sectors for further input soon. It is expected that a proclamation will be drafted after gathering all of the anticipated multisectorial comments.

The study's findings were presented by the law professionals, Ato. Solomon Emiru and Ato. Derje Shimeles followed by a discussion among the meeting attendees. It was clarified during the day's presentation that international and national laws have long been used as tools to help prevent and control the spread of diseases. Notably, the International Health Regulation (IHR) is the primary international legal instrument defining countries' rights and obligations and laying out the foundational principles that govern global public health emergency efforts.



Ato Melkaie Tadesse, Director of the EPHI Law directorate (left) & Ato Solomon Emiru, EPHI legal advisor (right)

National laws, on the other hand, are said to play critical roles in implementing the IHR at the national level. Some of these include enabling IHR enforcement within domestic jurisdictions, institutionalizing capacities and operations, and facilitating coordination among IHR implementation sectors and entities.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for legislative reform in Ethiopia's laws governing public health emergencies. As a result, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives conducted an assessment of Ethiopian legal frameworks. As a result, the assessment revealed significant gaps in the laws in terms of defining events that trigger a public health emergency, enabling multi-sectoral coordination, establishing entities in accordance with IHR requirements, providing governance tools and enforcement mechanisms, and so on. Understanding the critical role of the law in developing IHR core capacities for emergency preparedness and response, a draft public health legislative proclamation was planned as one of the assessment's deliverables.

SNNP: One Health Taskforce Revitalization Workshop

A regional One Health Taskforce revitalization workshop was held in the southern nation and nationalities peoples' region (SNNP). The workshop's main goals included raising awareness among stakeholders of the One Health approach, its crucial importance, and the results thus far attained at the national and sub-national levels, as well as acquainting participants with the regional Taskforce entities. The agenda of the meeting included building a platform for information and experience sharing among the various sectors as well as re-operationalizing the regional Taskforce.

The group also discussed developing a start-up plan to direct the launch of the newly developed One Health platform services and choosing mutually approved joint priority actions. A total of 30 professionals from significant federal organizations, including the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation, attended the revitalization workshop.

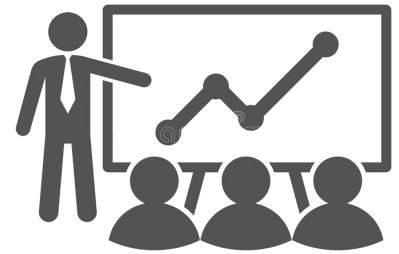
The event was also attended by representatives from regional and zonal sector institutions, such as the regional Bureaus of Health, Agriculture, Environment Protection, Culture and Tourism, and Wildlife.

The head of the regional Bureau of Health, Mr. Mena Meksria, stated in his opening remarks that reviving the regional One Health Taskforce will be an important step in energizing operations and fostering harmony and collaboration across sectors. The One Health concept, successes at the national and regional levels, and significant challenges with the multisectoral coordination efforts were all covered in a presentation made by Dr. Feyesa Regassa, chair of the National One Health Steering Committee.

In collaboration with the SNNP regional state and development partners (RTSL, FAO, JHU, and CORE group), the Ethiopian National One Health Steering Committee held the workshop for the revitalization of the region's One Health Taskforce on April 13, 2022, in Wolayita Sodo town.



Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP) Training in Hawassa



The Ministry of Agriculture, animal health division, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) organized five days of Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP) training from 8th to 12th August 2022, in Hawassa town.

The GEMP training was conducted in an interactive and participatory approach to improve animal and human health preparedness and response plans and included exercises to enable participants to acquire the practical skills of managing animal and human health emergencies properly, minimizing crisis and impact in all health systems.

The training was intended to enhance the emergency response capacity of rapid response team members against health threats at the animal-human-environment interface with effective multisectoral coordination through the One Health approach.

A total of 31 animal and public health specialists from the federal government's main sectors, as well as local experts from four regional states—Oromia, SNNP, Sidama, and South West Ethiopia—participated in the first round of the GEMP training. The second and third rounds are expected to be conducted based on the geographical proximity (clustering) of the remaining regional states.

The GEMP training provides an opportunity for trainees equipped with technical knowledge and skills for preparedness, early warning, and outbreak response during emergencies in a holistic, structured, and coordinated manner without overlooking key and fundamental principles.

Improving animal and human health preparedness and response plans will enable in managing animal and human health emergencies properly, with a minimized crisis and impact in all health systems.



A Regional One Health Platform Built in Sidama



The Sidama Regional One Health Taskforce was established on April 11, 2022, in Hawassa town by the NOHSC, in collaboration with the Sidama regional state offices of Health and Agriculture, and its development partners (RTSL and FAO).

The primary goals of the workshop were to raise awareness among participants about the One Health approach, its critical importance, and the results achieved so far at the national level. It also aimed to establish a functional platform for the region to facilitate effective multisectoral communication, coordination, and collaboration in order to improve the region's capacity for zoonotic disease prevention, detection and response.

The workshop also enables the creation of a forum for knowledge and experience sharing between various sectors (public health, animal health, environmental health, etc.), as well as ensuring political support for the operationalization of the platforms, identifying mutually agreeable joint priority actions, and developing a start-up plan to guide the launch of the newly established One Health platform functions.

Representatives from the regional Bureaus of Health, Livestock, Environment, Culture, Tourism & Sport/Parks/Wildlife, Education, Hawassa University, National OHSC leaders, and federal organizations like the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation were among the 35 professionals who attended the Sidama regional one health platform foundation workshop.

The opening speech presented by Ato Tekle Jumbo, Head of regional Bureau of Livestock and Dr. Feyesa Regassa, chair of the National One Health Steering Committee presented the achievements at national level and challenges of the multisectoral coordination efforts.



One Health Platforms established in Harari and Dire Dawa Regions



The Ethiopian National One Health Steering Committee established regional One Health Taskforces for the Dire Dawa and Harari regional states in collaboration with the regional authorities and development partners (RTSL, FAO, and WHO) in order to maximize the benefits of multisectoral collaboration across the entire nation. The two regional One Health workshops aimed to enhance stakeholder understanding of the One Health approach, its critical importance and national outcomes, as well as the development of a practical One Health platform for the area to support efficient multisectoral communication, coordination, and collaboration. Everyone will therefore be able to enhance their capacity to stop, identify and respond to zoonotic diseases supported by the platform.

Along with this, the idea of setting up a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience between the various sectors (public health, animal health, environmental health, etc.), assuring political support for the platforms' operationalization, identifying mutually agreeable joint priority actions, and developing a start-up strategy to direct the launch of the newly established One Health platform functions were also considered. On May 26, 2022, the Harari regional One Health Platform establishment workshop was held. Similar to this, a workshop to build the Dire Dawa regional One Health Platform was held on May 27, 2022.



Dr. Abraham Ali from the Ethiopian Public Health Institute spoke about the concept of One Health, successes at the national level, and difficulties with the multisectoral coordination efforts.

In both regions, major relevant governmental and non-governmental sectors attended the meetings. The opening session of both workshops was followed by a presentation from the regional bureau of agriculture (animal health) on the top priority zoonotic diseases in the region, their current status, and major activities for their prevention and control.

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