



# One Health Initiatives: Ethiopia Experience

**Africa One Health Leadership Conference**

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# Presentation Outline

- Background
- One Health approach country initiatives
- Challenges
- Lessons learnt
- Expectations from the Meeting

# Background

- Landmass: 1.104 Million square km
- Human population (CSA, 2014)
  - Close to 93 Million
  - Second in Africa, after Nigeria
- Livestock population (CSA, 2013)
  - Cattle: 54 Million
  - Sheep: 25.5 Million
  - Goats: 24 Million
  - Poultry: 50.4 Million



# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- Establishment of a close working relationship between ministries of health and agriculture for an effective preparedness and response plan for AI
- National Strategic Emergency Preparedness plan developed against pandemic AI threat
- Hence, a National Coordination Committee (NCC), then also called Zoonotic council, chaired by deputy prime minister was organized
- The NCC was the highest decision making body under which Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) were organized

# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- Under the TCC, there were three sub committees namely resource mobilization, prevention and control and advocacy and communication
- Duties and responsibilities of each committee (NCC, TCC, Sub committees) had been described
- An ad-hoc core committee (MoH, MoA, FAO, WHO and SPSS-USAID) established under the NCC against RVF
- RVF contingency plan drafted in response to the 2006(7) outbreak of the disease in neighbouring countries

# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- Investigate the incidence of an Unknown Liver Disease (ULD) in the northern part of the country (i.e. ULD → PAILD) ... Success in OH
- Team of experts (MoH, MoA, EPHI, WHO, AAU and MU) organized to investigate the incidence of the disease in the Adwa area
- Activities under OHCEA, (MU and JU) ... March 2013
  - ✓ *Country zoonotic disease profiling*
  - ✓ *In-service training and capacity building*
  - ✓ *Curricula development (MU); MSc in Food safety and Zoonoses*
  - ✓ *OH incorporated as course in MSc study in JU*
  - ✓ *inter and intra university sensitization*
  - ✓ *strategic plan developed according to OHCEA*
- Ethiopian Field Epidemiology Training program was launched in AAU since 2009 with the support of US-CDC. Then, the FMOH took over the program and launched it in six other Universities namely MU, JU, HU, UG, SPHMMC and UH in 2015. This program trains public and animal health professionals.

# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- Partner institutes and working groups have been identified under the RIGHT project for elimination of Rabies in Gondar area, Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Control of Bovine Tuberculosis Strategies (ETHICOBOTS) project to evaluate strategies to control BTB in Ethiopia launched
- The National Veterinary Institute (NVI), under the MoA, has taken over production of dog Rabies vaccine from the EPHI and NVI is working in collaboration with Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)
- The Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), under the MoH, continues to produce human rabies vaccine

# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- The National Animal Health Diagnostic and Investigation Center (NAHDIC), under the MoA, has an ISO 17025 certified laboratory for diagnosis of NCD and Zoonotic diseases .
- This is the only BSLIII certified laboratory in the country at the moment
- The National Residue testing laboratory (MoA) works in collaboration with the EFMHACA (MoH) .... Technical and capacity building
- National AMR control strategy drafted and is under review
- Veterinary Public Health team has been established under the Veterinary Services Directorate of the MoA
- Establishment of a national One Health institutional structure is one of the planned activities of the team
- Zoonoses unit has been established in the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, under the MoH



# Ethiopia: OH initiatives

- EPHI is a technical arm of MoH
  - ✓ *OH activities included in the five years institutional strategic plan (starting July, 2015)*
  - ✓ *The institute is working to transfer rabies diagnostic techs to regional (Vet. And Public health lab) labs*
  - ✓ *Zoonoses research team is proposed to be restructured as “Zoonoses and One Health team”*
  - ✓ *Surveillance of zoonotic diseases (Anthrax, Rabies, AHI, HF)*
  - ✓ *Plan to establish BSL III Laboratory by the FMOH under EPHI for an effective preparedness and response plan to prevent and control Public health threats like EVD with the support of US-CDC and WHO*

# Challenges

- Initiatives lacked continued implementation and integration when programs and projects phase out
- Line ministries (MoA and MoH) have not yet owned the concept
- Initiatives concentrated on emergency management rather than risk based management of threats
- Lack of sustained coordination between ministries
- Membership turn over and absence of replacement work force

# Challenges

- Absence of, in general , a **One Health coordination unit** in the nation
- In the case of OHCEA, universities and not implementing ministries took the leadership role
- Hence, the CCC OHCEA, was weak to address relevant stakes in the One Health perspective
- Also had problems of advocacy and promotion of the concept
- OH initiatives mostly concentrate on infectious diseases prevention and control

# Lessons Learnt

- One Health concept should be nationally owned
- Establishment of a One Health/..../ **institutional unit** comprised of staff from MoH, MoA, EWCA, MEFP and others (*w/r virtual or physical*)
- Revitalise the NCC and revise the TOR of the committee
- Technical and working groups should be developed under the NCC
- Regional governments should also establish such units with strong collaboration with the federal office
- Line ministries (MoH and MoA) should strengthen relationships on issues of mutual interest based on OH concept (*plan and implement*)
- OH strategies should be developed and road map established for sustainable implementation of the strategies
- Should convince decision makers in a language suitable

# Expectation from the Meeting

- Learn from countries like Kenya where there is an already established unit or mechanism for coordinating OH activities
- Learn from their experience;
  - ✓ Establishment of the Unit or mechanism
  - ✓ Convince decision makers and structure the unit
  - ✓ Coordination between ministries of health and Ag
  - ✓ Strategies and road maps used
  - ✓ Main areas addressed under the OH concept

# Acknowledgement

- We would like to acknowledge organizations who had first endorsed the OH approach (WHO, OIE and FAO) in general and Republic of Kenya Zoonotic Disease Unit(ZDU) and Global Implementation Solutions(GIS) in particular for their effort in arranging a high level technical meeting to drive the establishment of OH coordinating mechanism and bring the concept in to a routine practice in our countries in a holistic manner



**Thank you**  
**For your attention**