

Putting the One Health Approach into Practice

Shared Commitment by French & German Development Agencies



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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic and the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollutions) have brought global challenges into sharp focus. It has become evident that the current trajectory of development that humans have embarked upon is clearly unsustainable and leading the world towards ever bigger health, socio-economic and ecological challenges.

The increasing transformation of natural habitats into agricultural lands, excessive consumer behaviour and unsustainable production patterns have led to a significant destruction of biodiversity, amplified the negative impacts of climate change, and increased the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The complex interdependencies between humans, animals and ecosystems, are off balance. With the global population set to hit 9 billion by 2050, the risk of another pandemic looming and extreme weather events becoming ever more frequent, the case for action has never been stronger. However, symptomatic, human-centric solutions have so far proven to be insufficient in solving the world's interconnected problems.

The complexity of challenges concerning sustainable development underscores the importance of an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to reduce health risks for humans, animals, plants and ecosystems alike. It is in this light that the One Health approach has emerged on the international agenda, which is best described by the definition of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) from 2021: It has the potential to effectively address the complex challenges by contributing to an evidence-based understanding of causal chains of health risks and thus, enabling effective prevention and mitigation. Engaging actors and affected communities alike in jointly promoting sustainable

practices, as well as supportive policy frameworks is key to successfully prevent health risks.

” *One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes that 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 risks 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. “

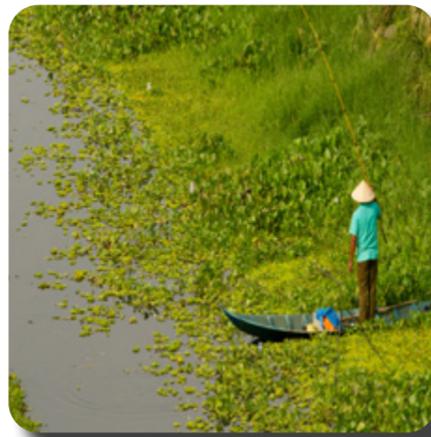
Ultimately, investing in the One Health approach not only helps to achieve many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but is also a general investment in a sustainable future.

The Quadripartite Collaboration for One Health, a collaborative framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) has taken the lead in bringing the One Health approach into position worldwide.

Both, France and Germany had a supportive role in the establishment of the Quadripartite and the OHHLEP. France and Germany committed to strongly support the operationalization and scaling up of the approach within international development cooperation. Accordingly, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Expertise France, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and KfW Development Bank support partner countries, regional commissions, organisations and institutions as well as local communities worldwide in their efforts to adopt the One Health approach to better contribute towards sustainable development and a healthier future for generations to come.

1. THE EMERGENCE OF THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In 2004 the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) brought together health experts from across the world to outline an interdisciplinary approach that highlighted the essential link between human and animal (domestic and wildlife) health. The approach was named ‘One World, One Health’ and further defined by what became known as the ‘Manhattan Principles’. In 2007, the Interministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza encouraged to further develop the One Health approach by building linkages between human and animal health systems for pandemic preparedness and global health security. In 2008, FAO, OIE (now WOAH), WHO, UNICEF, UNSIC, and World Bank published ‘Contributing to One World, One Health - A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal–Human–Ecosystems Interface’. This was followed by the Tripartite concept note ‘The FAO-OIE-WHO Collaboration’ which set a strategic direction for international collaboration aimed at coordinating global activities to address health risks at the human-animal-ecosystems



Many challenges need to be overcome to implement such an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach, involving multiple stakeholders with different interests and varying levels of authority. Given the urgent need for its global operationalisation, AFD, EF, KfW and GIZ share in this technical paper their conclusions from the initial experience of putting One Health into practice. The identified priority areas and guiding principles are based on the shared experiences and lessons learned from the field and are intended to encourage and support everyone in the successful operationalisation of the One Health approach.

interfaces beyond newly emerging infectious diseases. At the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) of 2018, One Health was linked to the necessity of protecting biodiversity as well. To update the ‘Manhattan Principles’ accordingly, the ‘One Planet, One Health, One Future’ conference of the WCS in 2019 defined the ‘Berlin Principles’, which integrated the health of ecosystems with the health of humans and animals. Acknowledging the interconnectedness between health of humans, animal, plants and the environment, interagency liaison groups, including one between WHO and the CBD, were formed on the intersection of health and biodiversity as well as climate and health. Consequently, UNEP joined the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite and the international OHHLEP was appointed. It provides evidence-based scientific and policy advice and technical support to the Quadripartite, ‘which has been formalized in 2022 for a new era of One Health collaboration’. Accordingly, the Quadripartite has set out a One Health Joint Plan

of Action (OH JPA, 2022-2026) charting the course that the international community should embark towards ‘a world better able to prevent, predict, detect and respond to health risks and improve the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment while contributing to sustainable development’. The OH JPA focuses on six action tracks: (1) Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems, (2) Re-

1.1 THE EMERGENCE OF THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH IN GERMANY’S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

In 2015 the G7, during the German presidency, committed to the One Health approach, encompassing all areas of human and animal health along with agriculture and the environment. It was agreed that One Health would become a crucial element of the national AMR action plans of the G7 and that One Health should be applied in strengthening global response capacities to disease outbreaks, such as the Ebola epidemic in 2014/15.

Following suit, during the first ever G20 Health Ministers meeting in Berlin in 2017, the importance of combatting AMR applying the One Health approach was highlighted. In February 2020, when the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched the BMZ 2030 Reform Strategy, setting out the agenda for the next decade, in line with the UN Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, One Health featured prominently. During the same year, Germany launched its national Global Health Strategy which also underlines the commitment towards a holistic approach to the environment, animal health and human health as a strategic priority. The strategy document ‘One Health in Development Cooperation’, published by BMZ in 2021, frames these fields of action: (1) anchoring the



ducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics, (3) Controlling and eliminating endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases, (4) Strengthening the assessment, management, and communication of food safety risks, (5) Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), (6) and Integrating the environment into One Health.

One Health approach in German development cooperation, (2) fostering cooperation with international, regional and national institutions and civil society, (3) strengthening One Health capacities, fostering know-how and joint, interdisciplinary production of knowledge and exchange, and (4) anchoring One Health as a holistic approach in international development cooperation together with partners and developing it further.

Especially in the areas of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, zoonosis, neglected tropical diseases and AMR, One Health is to be applied in Germany’s bilateral support to partner countries and strengthened in international cooperation, as laid out in the BMZ strategy ‘Health, Social Protection, Population Dynamics’, published in 2023. Since the onset of One Health in Germany’s international development cooperation, GIZ and KfW have developed a substantial portfolio spanning across the different sectors including biodiversity, agriculture, water, and health in the Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America regions.

1.2 THE EMERGENCE OF THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH IN FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

France established its strategy on the One Health approach in 2011, identifying 6 operational components: (1) support to the 3 international organizations and international advocacy, (2) support capacity building in developing countries, (3) promote more coordination between surveillance networks working in human and animal health, and even food safety and environmental surveillance, (4) develop research themes for emerging diseases by adopting a multidisciplinary approach, (5) promote a regional approach for the surveillance of emerging pathogens, (6) educate and share knowledge. France also developed expertise in the One Health approach concrete operationalisation by applying the approach to the fight against AMR at the national level.

More recently, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed its position on the One Health approach in the new French global health strategy (2023-2027). France recognised the limitations of conventional approaches in addressing infectious diseases and emphasised the importance of developing international mechanisms that would strengthen the linkages between human, animal and environmental



health.

AFD Group has been engaging with local and international partners to promote the One Health approach and has emphasized the need to rethink and realign international development goals by viewing them from the holistic and multidimensional lens.

AFD Group also recognized the importance of developing a methodology that would allow for the impact evaluation of the One Health approach and thus, build trust amongst international stakeholders to consider greater investment in One Health. In January 2021, the President of France announced the PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) international initiative that aims to address the challenges relating to the prevention, surveillance, early detection, and rapid response to the risks of zoonotic pandemics. In line with France's commitment to strengthening international mechanisms, PREZODE aims to contribute to the OHHLEP's work and to promote a complete shift in the way health risks are tackled.

2. KEY PRIORITY AREAS TO APPLY THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

GIZ, AFD, KfW and Expertise France are implementing projects worldwide that apply the One Health approach. Based on their collective practitioner's experience and analysis of existing gaps and challenges, the

following six key priority areas have been jointly identified to apply the One Health approach. They all contribute to objectives of the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026).

Summary of the One Health key priority areas

1. Enabling systems transformation and empowering people for effectively preventing health risks
2. Strengthening cross-sectoral, integrated disease surveillance and response systems, including laboratory diagnostic, for timely, coordinated action
3. Building and maintaining human resource capacities for competent implementation of the One Health approach in the different sectors where it is relevant
4. Improving cross-sectoral One Health policy frameworks for enabling effective prevention of health risks
5. Supporting regional organisations, national governments, institutions and systems for cross-border, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation
6. Increasing evidence through interdisciplinary operational research

2.1 ENABLING SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING HEALTH RISKS

To effectively prevent health risks, they must be known and well described/characterized for each ecosystem. Cross-sectoral risk assessments following the One Health approach, including the analysis of driving factors such as risk-causing behaviour, land use change and habitat degradation, are the first step towards evidence-based prevention of health risks. Based on these findings, context-specific, effective and acceptable risk prevention strategies and approaches must be developed and anchored in political and legal frameworks to enable their institutionalization and necessary investments in all relevant sectors. To put these strategies into practice, systems must be transformed, e.g. food systems must be geared to prevent biodiversity degradation, disease surveillance systems must be geared to prevent spillover infections, agriculture and health systems

must be geared to prevent AMR and the industry must prevent pollution. However, the most important driving force for effectively preventing health risks of any kind are the affected communities.

Involving them helps to better understand local health risks. Prevention strategies benefit from their empirical knowledge in terms of effectiveness and acceptance. And most importantly, they make the difference in preventing health risks when they change their everyday behaviour from risk-taking and risk-causing to protection, long before policies and systems are adapted. To support this change, appropriately communicated, evidence-based information and education is just as important as their empowerment and offering long-term alternatives to poverty-related risk behaviour.

The PREZODE international initiative supported by AFD participates in various countries from all continents to identify health risks and to assess the potential impact of those risks. Based on those findings, PREZODE supports the development of mitigation strategies at national and community level including risk communication as well as the implementation of mitigation measures through interactive processes. Moreover, AFD is supporting projects in Guinea and Senegal that address the health and environmental impacts of harmful agricultural practices. These projects aim to raise awareness and mobilise local actors to promote beneficial and sustainable practices in agriculture, resulting in improved quality of life and well-being of local populations.



GIZ is supporting Guatemala, Belize and Mexico in their joint responsibility to protect the rain forests of Selva Maya. The prioritization of local health risks and the development of prevention approaches includes key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia. Local communities feed their indigenous knowledge into discussions and benefit from information on risk-taking and risk-causing behaviour. Small businesses will be enabled to use forest resources sustainably and thus contribute to the preservation of biodiversity while securing their livelihoods. At the same time, anchoring the One Health approach in the regional 'Selva Maya Comprehensive Strategy 2030', is supported.

2.2 STRENGTHENING CROSS-SECTORAL, INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Timely information lies at the heart of effective decision making. As such, strengthening infectious diseases and AMR surveillance and response systems are a core priority of pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The rise in emerging and re-emerging diseases in recent years, of which two thirds are of zoonotic origin, and hard to eliminate endemic diseases have highlighted the pressing need for surveillance and response systems that integrate data from human, environmental and animal health information systems, which would greatly contribute to early detection, ideally preventing spillover infections, and timely response, even more so, if digitalized. However, effective surveillance and rapid, accurate response also depend on reliable and fast laboratory diagnostics. In Vietnam, KfW is supporting the setup of an advanced analytic hub for pandemic prevention building on digitally integrated surveillance sys-

tem, including One Health. A similar approach is being developed with partners in the Ministries of Health, Environment, and Agriculture and Fisheries in Cambodia. GIZ is supporting partners in Sierra Leone and the Economic Community of West African States in establishing digital cross-sectoral surveillance and response systems for zoonotic diseases. AFD and Expertise France have been working on strengthening coordinated laboratory systems to optimize disease surveillance in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea while strengthening response systems in parallel. Since 2019, AFD has also supported the creation and the development of a regional network for an epidemic surveillance and alert management (SEGA) in Indian Ocean. This surveillance network integrates human, animal and environmental dimensions. AFD developed similar programs in Caribbean, South-East Asia and Pacific regions.

2.3 BUILDING AND MAINTAINING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITIES FOR COMPETENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

An interdisciplinary, jointly trained workforce is necessary for any successful intervention, something that is currently lacking with regards to One Health. Therefore, a key priority is to enhance and maintain technical as well as managerial capacities from the community up to the policy level and across all relevant sectors, to effectively address the wide range of health risks for humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

This includes rapidly deployable experts to contain outbreaks, senior level experts to guide policies and national systems, as well as capable community frontline workers for monitoring and detec-

ting health risks early. In 2023, the SEGA network supported by AFD has been strengthened the technical capacity and expertise of more than 250 professionals from the Indian Ocean Commission member states in surveillance and response through a Field Epidemiology Training Program. Likewise, GIZ supported the East African Community in establishing a curriculum on pandemic preparedness with a One Health approach to train postgraduates. Expertise France has identified, recruited and positioned technical experts in missions across the world that are focused on the One Health approach.

2.4 IMPROVING CROSS-SECTORAL ONE HEALTH POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR ENABLING EFFECTIVE PREVENTION OF HEALTH RISKS

Obtaining meaningful impact from any intervention depends on its support by the right policy, legal and financial frameworks. In view of the complex drivers of health risks for humans, animals, plants and the environment across various sectors, their consideration in the respective sectoral policies (e.g., health, agriculture, environment, etc.) does not suffice. They need to be systematically addressed in dedicated, rights-based and inclusive cross-sectoral strategies for the One Health approach, which in turn need to be embedded into sectoral policies, legislations, action plans and budgets.

This way, cross-sectoral One Health interventions can be put into practice and policies made measurable. How successful One Health interventions are implemented further depends on well facilitated coordination and cooperation as well as the engagement of civil society in the monitoring and evaluation process.

AFD's participation in the PREZODE international initiative supports the development of One Health national strategies and policies. AFD also supports a multi-country programme 'Health and Territories' in Benin, Senegal, Cambodia, and Laos that aims to improve the quality of life and well-being of local populations through the development of national strategies that promote sustainable agricultural systems.

GIZ assisted the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Cambodia in developing cross-sectoral One Health policies and strategies which enable sectoral authorities to act upon jointly agreed objectives and pathways to prevent health risks.

2.5 SUPPORTING REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND SYSTEMS FOR CROSS-BORDER, CROSS-SECTORAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

Climate change, disease outbreaks or AMR antimicrobial resistance, as many other health risks, are rarely a localised, sectoral problem. They have regional or global implications or root causes, which originate from various sectors and therefore must be dealt with as such. Effective prevention, preparedness, response and eventually elimination of health risks require regional organisations, national governments, institutions, and systems to cooperate in a coordinated, efficient manner across sectors. This requires skilled cooperation management that clarifies the roles of the actors, uses different strengths, interests, and perspectives to achieve common goals, handles conflicts constructively and systematically builds cooperation relationships in the sense of working together on an equal footing.

2.6 INCREASING EVIDENCE-BASED DATA FOR ONE HEALTH INTERVENTIONS THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

Interventions according to the One Health approach need to be based on up-to-date scientific evidence for their potential impact on reducing health risks to fully unfold. Moreover, One Health interventions themselves should contribute to the generation of evidence on the causal chains of health risks for animals, humans and the environment applying a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach.

The 'AFD supported ECOMORE research programme (Economic Development, Ecosystem Modification and Emerging Infectious Diseases Risk Evaluation)' has pursued some effort

German Development Cooperation supports the East African Community and the Economic Community of West African States in fostering the cross-border cooperation of relevant sectors and actors in the regions for the prevention, timely detection and coordinated response to outbreaks of infectious diseases. While GIZ assists in establishing regional, cross-sectoral cooperation mechanisms as well as interdisciplinary, rapidly deployable expert teams and cross-border simulation exercises, KfW supports the establishment of a network of mobile laboratories that can be quickly deployed wherever there is an accumulation of suspected cases. While doing so, partners are continuously supported in their cooperation management and process moderation to ensure equal participation and commitment from all relevant stakeholders.

in this regard. The Programme aims to gain a better understanding of the impact of environmental transformations induced by rapid economic, demographic development and climate change in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, and the Philippines, particularly in relation to the emergence of infectious diseases in these countries.

Expertise France has been implementing the 'Onheto project' in Togo that aims at producing knowledge on AMR in human and animal health in both 'in and outpatients' and their respective environment.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following is a set of overarching guiding principles that GIZ, AFD, KfW and Expertise France have agreed upon to guide their work on the One Health approach:

FOSTERING CROSS-SECTORAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

In view of the complex, multi-causal interactions in the development of numerous health risks, a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary approach is a prerequisite for the development of preventive measures. Therefore, fostering cooperation and collaboration of multiple sectors and disciplines that intervene in the fields of human, animal, plant and environmental health is a guiding principle.

COOPERATION AT PAR

The One Health approach requires multiple stakeholders from various sectors to cooperate effectively towards a common goal. Diverse interests and objectives, as well as power and budgetary imbalance between different stakeholders can pose a fundamental challenge to successful, results-oriented cooperation and communication. Hence, the One Health approach requires professional cooperation management that clarifies roles, uses different strengths, interests, and perspectives to achieve common goals, deals with conflicts constructively and systematically builds cooperative relationships.

CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES

Conflicts of goals and interests inevitably arise when different values, priorities, or perspectives

clash. Even the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda potentially bear conflicts, e.g., in food security (SDG 2.1) and increasing agricultural productivity (SDG 2.3) on the one hand and the conservation of ecosystems (SDG 14 and 15) or access to clean water (SDG 6) on the other. An important function of the One Health approach is to address conflicting interests and objectives by enabling a fair analysis and discussion of different perspectives amongst stakeholders and a constructive negotiation towards a joint way forward.

ADOPTING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Inherent inequalities, discrimination, lack of accountability, disempowerment and absence of rights are underlying challenges for achieving sustainable development. These must be addressed through a rights-based approach. A rights-based approach in the context of One Health encompasses not just human rights but should also include and promote the rights to health and well-being of all living beings.

ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Any intervention within the realm of the One Health approach can only be successful if local stakeholders and citizens are part of the problem prioritization and solution. If local communities drive change, both through reflecting and adapting their own behaviour, as well as through taking ownership of an initiative, positive results can be achieved. This principle aims at active engagement with citizens and emp-



owerment of grass root level actors to understand local priorities and develop decentralised and contextualised interventions accordingly.

SOCIAL AND GENDER INCLUSIVENESS

Prevalent social, political, and economic structures create social and gender imbalances. This is apparent for instance in access to health-care, education, livelihoods, and natural resources. These inequalities lead to marginalization of parts of the society. The principle of social and gender inclusion aims at One Health interventions that contribute to overcoming existing and preventing future inequalities.



plants and the environment alike, it is evident that health risks are most effectively addressed if anticipated and detected early and at the source. Interventions applying the One Health approach should always aim at identifying causal chains of health risks and interrupting them at the earliest possible point. Attention should be on prevention and (early) detection of risks along with adequate preparedness to respond to and mitigate risks to humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

DESIGNING EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS

The health landscape is constantly evolving with new challenges and risks as well as new opportunities and scientific advances. To be effective and minimize negative implications, all interventions should be informed by relevant and up-to-date scientific evidence and designed to contribute to further evidence generation.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY HOLISTICALLY AT ALL LEVELS

Implementing One Health in various contexts requires adequate human, organisational and societal capacities at micro, meso, and macro levels. It is important that each level has adequate capacity to play its role. Hence, all interventions applying the One Health approach should enhance capacities holistically.

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

Considering the impact of recent disease outbreaks such as Ebola and COVID-19, growing antimicrobial resistance, resurfacing of preventable, neglected or endemic diseases or the impact of the climate change, biodiversity loss and pollutions on the health of humans, animals,



EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

The climate change and its significant impact on the health of humans, animals and nature requires that interventions applying the One Health approach themselves, as a matter of principle, must not contribute to the aggravation of climate change. Instead, they should adopt measures to mitigate climate change, where applicable, to adapt to climate change and to reduce its impact on health and well-being within their sphere of action.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

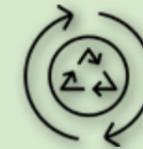
The SDGs provide a key entry point for operationalizing the One Health approach and for driving a paradigm shift in policy and practice towards a fully integrated development approach in social-ecological systems. The One Health approach can contribute to the attainment of the SDGs including those on poverty, hunger, health and well-being, protection

of biodiversity and environment, inequality, clean water and sanitation, work and economic growth, sustainable and responsible consumption and production, and partnerships. An additional value of the One Health approach lies in its potential to address challenges holistically and to balance out tradeoffs between SDGs and create co-benefits for all.

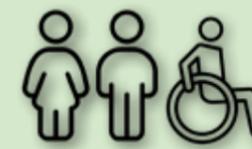
One Health serves all five principles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Universality



Integrated approach



Leave no one behind



Shared responsibility



Accountability

4.1 EXAMPLES OF ONE HEALTH CONTRIBUTIONS ON SELECTED SDGS:



The One Health approach promotes the health and welfare of animals, including domestic and farm animals, on which food security, especially for the most vulnerable parts of the population, is often dependent. One Health also promotes sustainable agricultural practices, with the protection of biodiversity being important to sustain pollinators for food production. Furthermore, a special focus on food safety along value chains reduces the risk of infections and therefore malnutrition and promotes good health.



The One Health approach promotes the health and well-being of humans and directly contributes to SDG 3. While doing so, it simultaneously protects the health of animals, plants, and ecosystems, and thus adds value to the overall sustainable development.



The impact of climate change on the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems is a major concern. In tackling climate-related health risks, the One Health approach can contribute to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction. Besides, adopting the One Health approach to climate change-related planning, management and early warning systems can leverage synergies and co-benefits across sectors and SDGs respectively.



The One Health approach contributes to a better and evidence-based understanding of the interconnectedness of the health and well-being of ecosystems with that of animals, plants, humans, and the environment. This can contribute to a more effective protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.



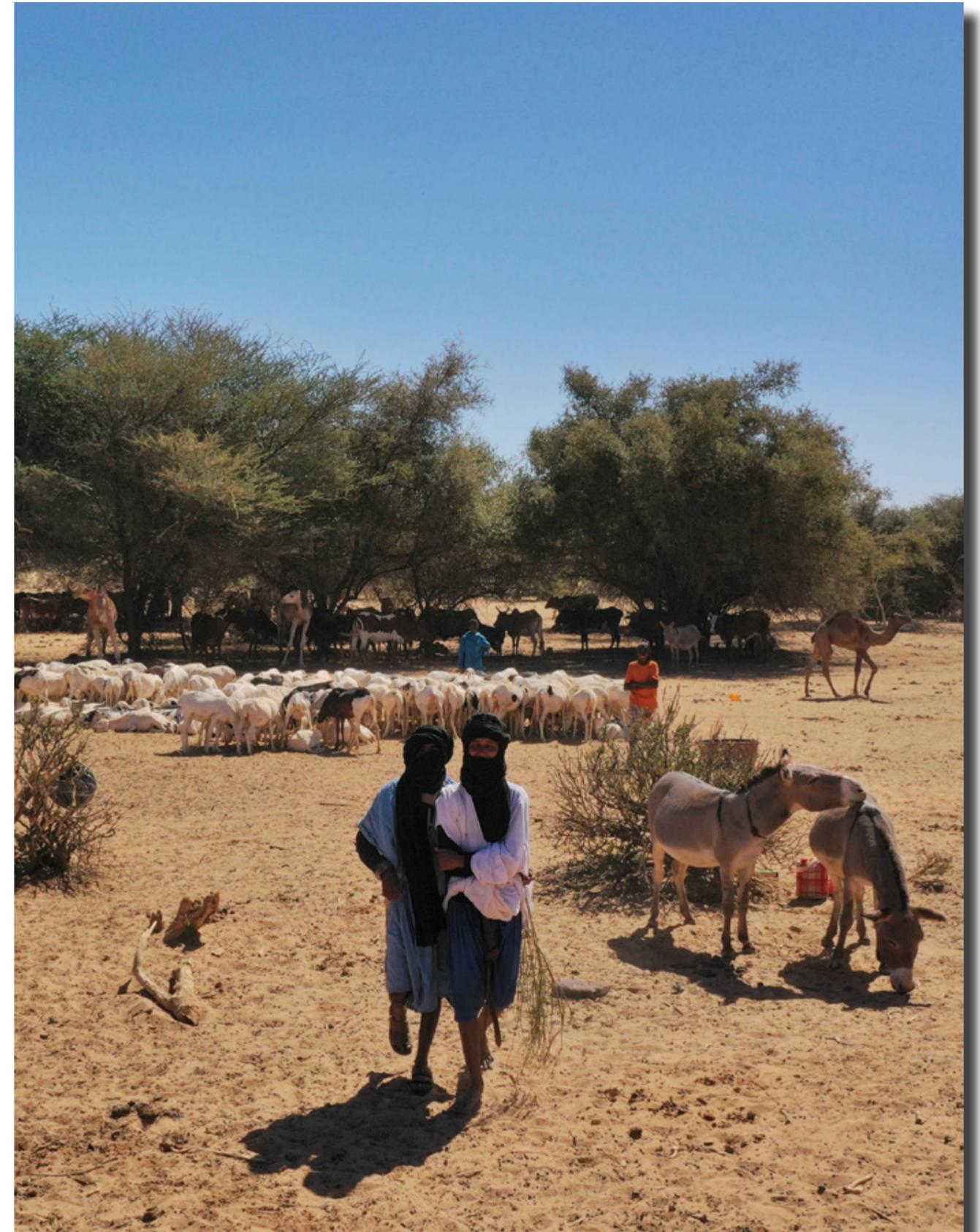
SDG 17 emphasizes the need for partnerships among all stakeholders to reach the goal of all SDGs. The One Health approach is rooted in collaboration and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders across sectors, disciplines and levels while addressing global health challenges.

In line with the SDGs, the Quadripartite Joint Plan of Action for One Health (2022-2026) aims at ‘a world that is better able to prevent, predict, detect and respond to health risks, improve human, animal, plant and environmental health, while contributing to sustainable development’. This overarching goal is to be achieved through the identification of system-wide One Health solutions that enable ecosystems to thrive in harmony, to improve the health of humans, animals, and the environment and by reducing the risks and the impact of health risks at the human-animal-plant-ecosystem interface.

The GIZ, KfW, AFD and Expertise France are committed to both the SDGs and the Quadripartite Joint Plan of Action for One Health as guiding frameworks and strive to contribute to

their achievements. Putting this commitment into practice, the four agencies already embarked on strengthening the One Health approach across the globe as illustrated in this paper. In future, we will further intensify our fruitful cooperation within the framework and with the support of the Team Europe Initiative ‘Sustainable Health Security with a One Health Approach’ launched by the European Commission, to strengthen the impact on health security in Africa through greater alignments, coordination, and cooperation between African and European partners.

We stay committed to the One Health approach both despite and because of the complex challenges ahead of us and we encourage everyone to join!





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