

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

PROGRAMME NATIONAL DE PREVENTION ET DE
LUTTE CONTRE LES ZONOSSES EMERGENTES
ET RE EMERGENTES

SECRETARIAT PERMANENT



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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**Decade of implementation of One Health in Sub-Saharan Africa:
Achievements, challenges and perspectives toward enhancing
preparedness and response to the next health security threats**

Concept Note

1. Background

In recent years, the world has witnessed the devastating impact of global pandemics on human health, economies, and societies. These outbreaks underscore the urgency of a comprehensive multisectoral surveillance system, proactive preparedness, prevention, control measures, and a multidisciplinary response to future health challenges. Preventive measures are vital to curbing global public health threats, while timely control and effective responses can mitigate the impact of epidemics and pandemics, especially in less developed nations, as evidenced by recent experiences with Ebola and COVID-19.

The interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, soil and environmental health has become starkly apparent. The concept of One Health emphasizes the interdependence of these domains and underscores the need for collaborative approaches to address health challenges. As the world recovers from the current pandemic, it is crucial to enhance our multisectoral and disciplinary preparedness and response mechanisms to safeguard against future pandemic threats. While few sub-Saharan African countries have taken steps to put these ideas into action, Cameroon was one of the first countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to adopt a One Health National Strategy in 2012. This concept is not only limited to zoonotic diseases, it includes non-communicable diseases, drug-resistance, and food safety and security. Thus, the collaboration and coordination between different health systems generally disconnected while promoting trans-sectoral synergies outlined in the Cameroon Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), ensures better health safety.

The sustainability and implementation of the "One Health" approach is based on the establishment of a legal and innovative institutional framework, current and future One Health workforce and domestic budget allocation. From the Cameroon experience in the implementation of "One Health" as is the case with other developing countries, unless this approach is fully institutionalized and operationalized, involving all the relevant sectors, the low level of joint preparedness and weak mechanisms for collaboration, coordination and communication can result in confusion and hence delay responses which in turn lead to poorer environmental, terrestrial and aquatic animal, plant, soil and human health outcomes. Also, for endemic animal and public health threats, the low level of coordinated planning, information sharing, assessment, and control activities across all relevant sectors can obstruct and complicate the implementation of effective control programmes.

The **Yaoundé One Health Forum** keeps the pulse on the global health security agenda with the specific aim of helping bridge the gap between law, policy and practice. Based on an open call for abstracts, this maiden edition is canvassed to highlight the most pressing contemporary global health security challenges. While soliciting and carefully reviewing accounts and experiences from those on the frontlines, whether they are working at the local level in a rural clinic, livestock post, conservation park or developing policy at the national level in a ministry or in an international organization.

2. Aim and Specific Objectives

The aim of the Yaoundé One Health Forum is to:

- **Review Achievements:** Reflect on the achievements and impact of more than a decade of One Health implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa and specifically in Cameroon highlighting successful interventions, failures and outcomes.
- **Identify Challenges:** Examine the challenges and barriers faced in the integration of human, terrestrial and aquatic animal, plant, soil and environmental health, and discuss strategies to overcome them.
- **Explore Sustainability and Future Perspectives:** Engage participants in envisioning the sustainability and future of One Health.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Provide a platform for sharing One Health research findings, best practices, and lessons learned in One Health-related fields.
- **Strengthen Networks:** Foster collaboration among stakeholders including policymakers, law-makers, decision-makers, healthcare professionals including nurses, veterinarians, wildlife professionals, educators, researchers and community representatives.
- **Innovation and Solutions:** Showcase innovative interventions, technologies, and strategies that integrate One Health principles to mitigate the risks of future health security threats.
- **Capacity and capability Building:** Promote the sharing of knowledge and best practices to enhance the capacity of healthcare systems, institutions, and communities in anticipation of future health crises.

3. Proposed thematic (not exhaustive)

The conference will address a range of themes, including:

One Health Policy, Governance, Implementation and sustainability: Showcasing successful interventions that promote One Health to mitigate disease risks; assessing the

progress, impact, and challenges; analyzing existing policies and governance structures for One Health coordination and suggesting improvements and sustainability model.

Integrated Disease/ Multisectoral Surveillance and detection: Novel approaches to improve community-based surveillance for early detection and monitoring of endemic, re-emerging and emerging infectious diseases; strategies for preparedness, prevention, detection and response to zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR); integrated specimen transport system; national genomic surveillance platform.

Environmental Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation: Environmental perspectives to addressing One Health challenges; role of ecosystem health in preventing and mitigating disease emergence including ecological and wildlife disease surveillance.

Social and Behavioural change for effective community participation: Sustainable model for local contexts and role of civil society; emerging food safety issues, risk communication and community engagement in emergencies; exploring the differential impact of pandemics on vulnerable populations and addressing ethical, gender, social, and economic considerations.

Capacity Building and One health Research priorities: Strategies to enhance One Health workforce for pandemic preparedness and response; sustainability of FETP and ISAVET training; integration of the One Health approach into training curricula; One Health Research agenda; translation of research outcomes into policies; global collaboration.

One Health Data for evidence-based health management and Innovations: Governance of One Health digital data; One Health information platforms architecture; Interoperability model for One Health surveillance data; Role of artificial intelligence tools; innovations in surveillance and diagnostic tools.

4. Activity Sequence

The forum will take place over the course of a week of activities comprising the following elements:

- **Training for deconcentrated level actors of key sectors and civil society on the One Health approach**
October 30 to November 1, 2023.
- **Forum:** 2-3 November 2023, in Yaoundé.

The forum will include plenary sessions featuring renowned experts, panel discussions, oral presentations, poster sessions, and symposia. Interactive sessions will encourage dynamic discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaboration.

Expected number of participants: 300.

- **One Health community village:** 2-3 November 2023, in Yaoundé.
Showcase various community interventions in the One Health domain (priority zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety, public health emergencies) to support health security localization.
- **Sport walking to promote One Health approach.**
November 4, 2023.

5. Participants

The conference welcomes the participation of policymakers, practitioners, civil society, researchers, students, NGOs, and individuals interested in One Health, and pandemic preparedness and response.

6. Potential Partners

- Africa CDC,
- AU-IBAR
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID),
- Global Health Security and Diplomacy/ US Department of State
- US CDC Cameroon,
- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA),
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ),
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),
- World Health Organization (WHO),
- World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH),
- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA),
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD),
- Embassy (France, US, Germany, France, ...)
- Africa One Health Network (AFHONET)
- Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN),

- Geneva Health Forum.
- Breakthrough ACTION,
- Infectious Diseases Detection and Surveillance (IDDS),
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFCR),
- Cameroon Red Cross (CRC),
- Croix-Rouge Française (CRF),
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD),
- Organisation Ouest Africaine de la Santé (OOAS),
- Prezode (AfriCAM Project),
- Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS),
- Rabies Control and Elimination (RACE) Project,
- TRAFFIC,
- World Bank (WB),
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB),
- Geneva Health Forum (GHF),
- University of Buea (UB),
- University of Ngaoundere,
- Université des Montagnes,
- University of Corsica Pascale Paoli (UCPP),
- United Nations Organization of Women Rights (UNWOMEN),
- Health System Strengthening and Development (HSS),
- GICAM,
- Chambre d'Agriculture du Cameroun,
- Groupement de la Filière Bois,
- Communes et Villes Unies du Cameroun (CVUC)
- Epidemiology-Public Health-Veterinary Association (ESPV)
- Other private sector organizations.