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Preparedness&Response
ONE HEALTH IN ACTION

Incorporating One Health into Policy & Technical Guidance Toolkit



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This publication is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents of this publication are the responsibility of DAI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Program Title:	Preparedness & Response
Sponsoring USAID Office:	GH-HN
Contract Number:	AID-OAA-A-14-00098
Contractor:	DAI
Date of Publication:	December 2018
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INTRODUCTION

The One Health approach is a proactive, integrated approach that calls for multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary engagement across the human, animal (including wildlife), and environmental health sectors to better prevent, detect, and respond to emerging pandemic threats. As such, a single One Health (OH) policy is insufficient. To institutionalize One Health, it must be integrated into a number of government policy and technical guidance documents, from guidelines to regulations, plans, and protocols. P&R has created this toolkit to better equip representatives from the One Health platforms to review and incorporate One Health into new and existing documents.

This toolkit will guide you through the process of integrating One Health into new or existing policy and technical guidance documents, including guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs), protocols, and plans, as part of broader One Health policy advocacy and multi-sectoral preparedness and response efforts. In addition to defining One Health, this document provides a step-by-step process for incorporating One Health into different documents. It also provides helpful tools and guidelines in the text boxes.

The tools and guidelines available to national One Health platform (NOHP) representatives as they seek to incorporate One Health principles into new and existing policy and technical guidelines are highlighted in the table below.

Tool	Purpose
How to Review Documents	Provides guidance on reviewing documents. Includes a template for capturing comments and a comment review checklist.
Incorporating OH into Policy and Technical Guidance Documents	Provides general recommendations on incorporating OH principles into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), • Community Event-Based Surveillance, • Surveillance and Monitoring Data Management Protocols, • Rapid Response SOPs, • Laboratory Protocols, • Disease-specific Protocols, • Plans and SOPs for Points of Entry, • Multi-hazard Planning and Protocols, and • Country-level Centers for Disease Control or Public Health Institutes.
Incorporating OH into an Existing NPRP	Provides in-depth guidance on how to incorporate One Health (and unknown etiology) considerations into each component of a typical National Preparedness and Response Plan.
Incorporating OH into a Point of Entry Document	Provides in-depth guidance on how to incorporate One Health principles into key components of Point of Entry documents. Recommends key background documents: Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention, Early Warning and Response to Public Health Events at Points of Entry (IOM), Interim Guidance on Ebola Event Management at Points of Entry (WHO), International Health Regulations (2005) – A guide for public health emergency contingency planning at designated points of entry (WHO), and Points of entry under the IHR (2005), IHR Brief No. 3 (WHO).



Tool	Purpose
Incorporating OH into Rapid Response Team Documents	Gives in-depth recommendations on how to incorporate One Health principles into Rapid Response Team documents. Recommends key background document(s): Public health events of initially unknown etiology: A framework for preparedness and response in the African Region (WHO). Provides an excerpt of one country’s Rapid Response Team Protocols, which incorporate OH principles.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

Most countries have documents that would benefit from the inclusion of One Health in addition to their preparedness and response plans. NOHP representatives should work with the One Health platform to identify any such documents. Then, NOHP representatives should review the documents and develop recommendations, drawing on the guidelines provided in this toolkit, as well as examples and conversations with other experts. Once completed, the platform should formally submit its recommendations to the responsible government agency. The key stages in this process include:

STAGE 1: IDENTIFY

As part of broader efforts on One health policy advocacy (see Policy Advocacy Toolkit) and multisectoral preparedness and response (see Preparedness and Response Planning Toolkit), NOHP representatives should keep abreast of the documents being updated at any given point and seek opportunities to incorporate One Health principles. Key steps include:

- Identify a policy/regulation/plan/SOP/guideline such as Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) Guidelines, Rapid Response Team SOPs, and Point of Entry Plans.
- Check with the platform to see if the identified document is appropriate to review.
- Using the [Incorporating OH into Policy and Technical Guidance Documents tool](#) as a starting point, try to find examples of similar documents in which OH policy has been integrated.

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

- Have you identified gender policy guidelines and commitments relevant to OH planning?
- Have you reviewed the Gender Approach Technical Guidance Toolkit for ideas on incorporating gender into policy and technical guidance documents?

STAGE 2: REVIEW & DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Our assumption in developing this toolkit is that you don’t have to be a technical expert to incorporate One Health into an existing document—you simply need to know how to effectively review and comment on documents.

- Examine the document using the [How to Review Documents Tool](#).
- Compare the document to other similar documents identified in Stage 1.
- Seek opinions from other NOHP representatives and experts.



- Develop recommendations. Use the general guidelines on [Incorporating One Health into Policy and Technical Guidance Documents](#) as a starting point. See also [Incorporating OH into an Existing NPRP](#) for more in-depth guidance.

STAGE 3: SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Submit recommendations (in the [How to Review Document Tool](#) format) to the platform or to the appropriate agency with a cover letter. Note: The review and submission steps may happen multiple times, depending on government questions and comments. This is appropriate and helpful to generate dialogue.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

P&R EXPERIENCE

Experts from the guideline documents below are embedded within the tools in this toolkit:

- **West African Country** – rapid response team protocols