Incorporating One Health into Policy & Technical Guidance Toolkit

www.onehealthapp.org/resources
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Review Documents</td>
<td>Provides guidance on reviewing documents. Includes a template for capturing comments and a comment review checklist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating OH into Policy and Technical Guidance Documents</td>
<td>Provides general recommendations on incorporating OH principles into:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incorporating One Health into Policy & Technical Guidance Toolkit

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

**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