



WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

A publication of the Epidemiology Unit
Ministry of Health & Mass Media

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SRI LANKA 2025

Vol. 52 No. 04

18th – 24th Jan 2025

One Health Approach: Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment

This is the first article of two in a series on “One Health Approach: Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment”

Introduction

One Health is “an integrated, unifying approach which aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems”. It recognizes that the health of these entities is closely linked and interdependent. This approach mobilizes multiple sectors, communities and disciplines at different levels of society to work together. It aims to tackle health threats while addressing broader concerns such as food security, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and climate change. The Quadripartite organizations; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) 2022-2026, providing a framework for collaboration and coordination in tackling health challenges at the human-animal-plant-environment interface.

The Need for One Health

The OH JPA aims to enhance global capacity to prevent, predict, detect, and respond to health threats, improving the well-being of humans, animals, plants, and the environment while supporting sustainable development. The increasing frequency and severity of global health challenges highlight the urgency of adopting a *One Health* approach. Several key drivers emphasize this necessity:

- Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases:** Over 60% of human infectious diseases originate from animals. The COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola, and avian influenza emphasize the need for a coordinated response.
- Antimicrobial Resistance:** The overuse and misuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and agriculture contribute to a growing AMR crisis, affecting global health security.
- Environmental degradation:** Deforestation, habitat destruction, and pollution facilitate the spillover of pathogens from animals to humans.
- Food and water safety:** Contaminated food and water remain major sources of disease outbreaks, necessitating improved surveillance and management.

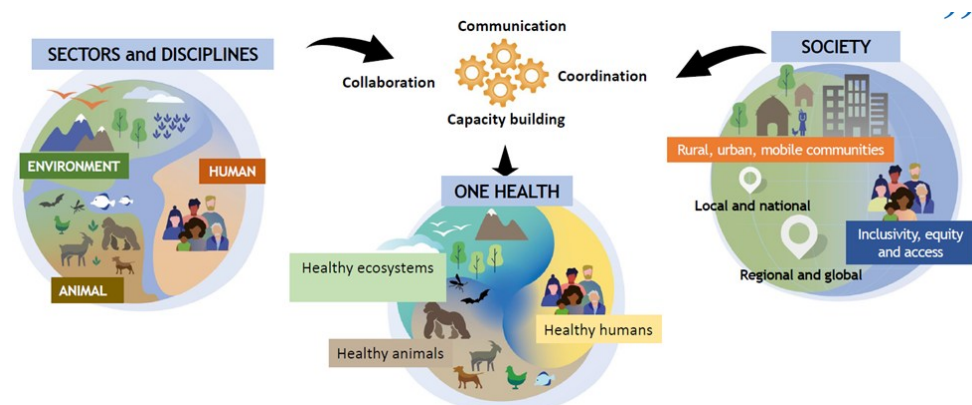


Figure 1. Links between the health of the environment, humans, animals and plants (*One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022–2026): Working Together for the Health of Humans, Animals, Plants and the Environment, 2022*)

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The OH JPA is guided by a ‘Theory of Change’ which emphasizes the potential of the *One Health* approach to address health challenges through a multisectoral, integrated, and holistic approach. The framework aims to overcome technical, institutional, and coordinative barriers to achieve sustainable health outcomes for humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

The theory of change is supported by three key pathways to change:

1. Policy, legislation, advocacy, and financing: Focuses on policy development, political will, regulatory frameworks, investment, and the institutionalization of intersectoral governance.
2. Organizational development, implementation, and sectoral integration: Focuses on scaling up capacity development, community engagement, multisectoral coordination, and equitable sector integration.
3. Data, evidence, and knowledge: Strengthens scientific evidence, and knowledge translation, and enhances data systems, protocols, and surveillance.

The OH JPA (2022-2026) is structured around six key action tracks aimed at strengthening health systems and preventing health threats:

1. **Enhancing one health capacities to strengthen health systems** (Eg: Establishing governance structures and multisectoral collaboration, strengthening workforce capacities in surveillance and diagnostics.)
2. **Reducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics.** (Eg: Improving early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, Strengthening intersectoral collaboration for outbreak detection and control.)
3. **Controlling and eliminating endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases** (Eg: Implementing integrated disease control strategies, Enhancing vaccination programs and public health interventions.)
4. **Strengthening the assessment, management, and communication of food safety risks** (Eg: Reducing contamination risks along the food chain and enhancing food-borne disease surveillance and response.)
5. **Curbing the silent pandemic of AMR** (Eg: Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials in human and animal health, strengthening regulatory frameworks to monitor antimicrobial use.)
6. **Integrating the environment into One Health** (Eg: Addressing environmental health determinants such as pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change, Promoting sustainable land-use practices.)

References:

1. *One health joint plan of action (2022–2026): working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.* (2022, October 14). Wwww.who.int. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240059139>
2. *One Health Joint Plan of Action.* (2022). OneHealth. <https://www.fao.org/one-health/resources/publications/joint-plan-of-action/en>
3. *One Health Joint Plan of Action Leveraging the role of the Quadripartite collaboration.* (n.d.). Retrieved June 10, 2024, from <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2022/04/oh-joint-plan-of-action-summary.pdf>
4. *ZERO BY 30 THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN HUMAN DEATHS FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES BY 2030 TO END.* (n.d.). Retrieved December 4, 2023, from

Table 1 : Water Quality Surveillance
Number of microbiological water samples December 2024

District	MOH areas	No: Expected *	No: Received
Colombo	18	108	20
Gampaha	15	90	3
Kalutara	13	78	126
Kalutara NIHS	2	12	5
Kandy	23	138	0
Matale	13	78	1
Nuwara Eliya	13	78	4
Galle	20	120	123
Matara	17	102	120
Hambantota	12	72	8
Jaffna	14	84	130
Kilinochchi	4	24	32
Mannar	5	30	0
Vavuniya	4	24	39
Mullatvu	6	36	19
Batticaloa	14	84	24
Ampara	7	42	5
Trincomalee	12	72	0
Kurunegala	29	174	0
Puttalam	13	78	9
Anuradhapura	23	138	NR
Polonnaruwa	9	54	46
Badulla	16	96	101
Moneragala	11	66	78
Rathnapura	20	120	69
Kegalle	11	66	3
Kalmunai	13	78	8

* No of samples expected (6 / MOH area / Month)
NR = Return not received

Compiled by:

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Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 11th-17th Jan 2025 (03rd Week)

RDHS	Dengue Fever		Dysentery		Encephalitis		En. Fever		F. Poisoning		Leptospirosis		Typhus F.		Viral Hep.		H. Rabies		Chickenpox		Meningitis		Leishmania-		Tuberculosis		WRCD			
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	T*	C**
Colombo	247	692	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	23	0	1	0	0	0	28	109	89	100	100
Gampaha	157	534	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	8	42	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	31	2	8	1	4	14	62	93	100	100	100
Kalutara	51	140	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	18	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	40	1	2	0	0	17	54	71	75	75	
Kandy	77	208	2	8	1	1	0	0	1	2	9	35	3	8	0	0	0	0	7	21	0	1	3	4	12	76	96	100	100	100
Matale	44	135	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	17	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	15	2	5	100	100	100	100
Nuwara Eliya	1	14	2	4	0	0	2	27	31	4	15	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	8	9	0	1	0	0	8	26	92	100	100	100
Galle	51	163	0	5	0	2	0	0	4	12	12	55	4	8	0	0	0	0	10	35	4	11	0	0	8	40	100	100	100	100
Hambantota	32	103	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	8	25	1	3	0	0	0	0	6	17	1	1	17	24	4	15	100	100	100	100
Matara	45	96	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	15	43	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	1	3	0	6	1	16	100	100	100	100	
Jaffna	37	151	0	8	0	0	1	2	1	14	65	15	61	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	0	2	0	0	6	15	100	93	100	100
Kilinochchi	3	16	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	100	100	100	100
Mannar	12	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	100	100	100	100
Vavuniya	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	5	100	100	100	100
Mullaitivu	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	100	100	100	100
Batticaloa	65	182	5	14	0	1	0	0	1	1	9	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	3	18	2	4	0	1	3	9	100	100	100	100
Ampara	7	17	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	2	0	1	0	3	100	100	100	100
Trincomalee	34	96	1	5	0	1	0	0	3	5	7	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	11	3	4	0	2	3	8	100	100	100	100
Kurunegala	30	95	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	15	19	82	3	3	0	0	0	0	14	42	5	17	11	34	2	17	100	100	100	100
Puttalam	17	92	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	56	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	15	0	8	0	0	3	16	92	100	100	100
Anuradhapura	29	76	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	16	62	1	2	2	4	0	0	5	19	0	2	18	72	13	19	65	100	100	100
Polonnaruwa	7	18	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	19	0	0	2	4	0	0	5	16	0	0	7	24	1	4	78	100	100	100
Badulla	28	70	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	10	29	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	10	34	0	3	0	1	4	12	94	100	100	100
Monaragala	23	79	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	48	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	2	8	1	8	2	8	82	100	100	100
Ratnapura	46	166	4	11	0	1	1	1	1	3	42	124	1	2	0	0	0	0	13	25	2	6	0	3	10	24	100	100	100	100
Kegalle	34	128	1	8	0	2	0	0	0	3	8	48	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	48	2	2	0	3	4	24	91	100	100	100
Kalmunai	20	48	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	24	0	1	0	0	0	9	92	100	100	100
SRILANKA	110	3370	27	92	4	21	2	7	44	84	241	936	32	116	6	23	0	0	161	482	26	91	59	203	149	582	94	99	99	99

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (esurveillance.epid.gov.lk). T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 17th Jan, 2025 Total number of reporting units 358 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 357 C**=Completeness. A = Cases reported during the current week. B = Cumulative cases for the year.

Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

11th – 17th Jan 2025 (03rd Week)

Disease	No. of Cases by Province									Number of cases during current week in 2025	Number of cases during same week in 2024	Total number of cases to date in 2025	Total number of cases to date in 2024	Difference between the number of cases to date in 2025 & 2024
	W	C	S	N	E	NW	NC	U	Sab					
AFP*	01	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	02	00	04	03	33.3%
Diphtheria	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Mumps	01	00	03	00	00	01	00	01	00	06	06	06	13	53.8 %
Measles	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	47	04	72	-94.4 %
Rubella	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	-100%
CRS**	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Neonatal Tetanus	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0 %
Japanese Encephalitis	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01	00	02	00	0 %
Whooping Cough	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	02	00	0 %

Key to Table 1 & 2

Provinces: W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.
RDHS Divisions: CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.

Data Sources:
Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS,
Special Surveillance: AFP* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis
CRS** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome
NA = Not Available

Take prophylaxis medications for leptospirosis during the paddy cultivation and harvesting seasons.

It is provided free by the MOH office / Public Health Inspectors.

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ON STATE SERVICE

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