

# Constitution



## One Health Bangladesh

**Revised  
2017**

**Preamble:**

The humanity has witnessed phenomenal changes over the last decades in technology, lifestyle, health systems those were unprecedented in the history of humanity. The ever increasing human population coupled with burgeoning consumption capacities has created enormous pressure on nature causing severe degradation and depletion of its resources with eventual detrimental effect on the health of humans, animals and plants. The rapidly growing and globally integrated labour, trade, tourism, education, health care, etc. has increased the risk of pathogens to cross the national and continental boundaries at pace unbelievable even couple of decades before. The situation is further complicated by the unusual close proximity of wildlife with domesticated animals and humans resulting from the habitat loss of wild life due to reckless human activities. These resulted in the emergence and quick spread of diseases like SARS, H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, H1N1 Influenza, H7N9 influenza, MERS CoV, Ebola, etc. Also the effect of global warming is clearly on sight and many flora and fauna are at the threat of extinction. The negative impact of climate change in particular on health of the population specially on communities of low income group living in the immediate climate change vulnerable zones is already tangible and if immediate actions are not taken the adverse effects might further aggravate and expand.

As an integral part of global village, Bangladesh has been confronting similar challenges as other countries of the world. However, the challenges are in fact more formidable than many other countries of the world as the human foot prints are denser and adverse effects of climate change is harsher. The economy of the country continues to grow and now much integrated with international economy and trade. The movement across the border has increased manifold in particular for increase in overseas work, migration, trade, education, etc. The agriculture of Bangladesh including animal agriculture is now much more internationally integrated owing to increased use for improved genetic materials, feed stuff, insecticides, antimicrobials, medicines, etc. The city centres are growing very fast and the middle class within these urban and peri-urban areas have a shift in the dietary pattern and are now more relying on animal sources. This demand has driven the emergence of huge number of small-scale commercial poultry and aquaculture ventures across the country. The production of vegetables and fruits has grown considerably along with main cereals and use of fertilizer, insecticide, hormone, antimicrobial, growth promoters has increased manifold with little understanding about the judicious application of these agents having potential detrimental effect on human, animal, plant and soil health. The unabated deforestation resulting from the ever increasing use of land for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes has led to habitat loss. This entire complexity has led to the emergence of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Nipah in the country. In addition to Emerging Infectious diseases traditional zoonoses like Anthrax, Rabies are seen round the year and life claimed by this vaccine preventable disease is unacceptable when they can easily be prevented with minimum coordinated effort. The disease burden of anthrax and many other zoonoses can be reduced both on animal and human significantly using one health approach.

The industrial and agricultural activities have put the consumers at risk as chemicals detrimental to health are reported across the food chain. Arsenic, lead and other chemicals used in pesticides are found at an alarming level putting food safety at jeopardy. It is very clear that health problems are neither a result of a single etiology nor a single factor.

Usually, health problems are the result of a whole range of diverse biological, social and economic phenomena. Until recently, the modern society has tried to find solution considering health issues as biological phenomena which can be dealt by a single discipline or by a single sector ignoring the complexity of the problems and it's societal and economical perspective. It is now slowly and progressively understood that health problems are not "Not problems stand alone" and cannot be solved by the fragmented efforts by the people working in compartments . Coordinated and combined efforts are essential for solution of problems of health of animal, human and environment.

Realizing the necessity of combined and inclusive effort to deal with the problems of health across the human, animal and ecosystem interface, initiative has been taken to bring the people involved in the human, animal and ecosystem interface together and OH-BD is formed with a vision of achieving healthy animal, healthy people and a healthy ecosystem in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world and the constitution of the organization is adopted.

### **1.0 Name:**

The name of the organization will be “**One Health Bangladesh**”. Herein after, the organization will be referred as OH-BD in the document.

### **2.0 Objectives:**

- a) Promote the idea of ‘One World One Health’ among policy-makers, academics, professionals, civil society and media etc.
- b) Link different groups to harness better coordination and interaction to achieve better health for human, animal and ecosystem.
- c) Establish a multidisciplinary collaborative mechanism for confronting health problems.
- d) Prioritize activities and research agenda for immediate, mid-term and long-term action
- e) Promote active participation of young professionals and other youth groups in one health activities and thus ensure continued in flow in one health activities

### **3.0 Strategy:**

- a) Advocacy & liaison with the government, development partners and other organizations to transform the idea of one health into action.
- b) Aware people about the importance of emerging infectious diseases and other pertinent/applicable health issues.
- c) Involve people in containment & mitigation of health issues at personal, community and society level
- d) Promote people’s participation for the conservation of ecosystem & EcoHealth
- e) Support Government and other agencies to overcome health related challenges
- f) Uphold research and capacity building program to ensure sustainability and evidence based solution for One Health issues.

### **4.0 Membership:**

Any individual or organization endorsing the objectives of the One health Bangladesh, mentioned in Article-2.0 will be eligible for the membership of the organization for any of category deem suitable for the individual or organization.

### **5.0 Category of Membership:**

- a) General Member: Individuals eligible for membership of OH-BD paying subscription for a period of time will constitute the category for General Member.
- b) Life Member: Individuals eligible for membership of OH-BD paying subscription for life membership will constitute the category of Life Member.
- c) Organization Member: Organizations eligible for the membership of OH-BD paying subscription for a period of time will constitute the category of Organization Member.
- d) Permanent Organization Member: Organizations eligible for the membership of OH-BD paying subscription for permanent organization membership will constitute the category of Permanent Organization Member.
- e) Support Group: Any organization declaring support to the aims and objective of OH-BD will constitute the Support Group of One Health Bangladesh.

- f) Honorary Member: OH-BD may offer honorary membership to the individuals for outstanding contribution in the field of One Health.
- g) Founder Member: Individuals involved in the formation of OH-BD will constitute the category of founder member.

#### **6.0 Membership Procedure:**

Any individual eligible for membership can apply for general member / life membership in a prescribed form and paying the subscription. National Coordination Committee will retain the power of approval and rejection on case by case basis. In case of declining any application for membership, the National Coordination Committee will inform the applicant in writings the reason(s) for not approving the application and will maintain the record.

Any organization eligible for membership in organization member category can apply for organization member / permanent organization member category paying the subscription. National Coordination Committee will retain the power of approval and rejection on case by case basis. In case of declining any application for membership National Coordination Committee will inform the applicant in writings the reason for not approving the application and will maintain the record.

The National Coordination Committee may select individuals for Honorary Membership from people having outstanding contribution for achieving the objective of OH-BD and will be duly approved by the annual general body in the meeting.

Individuals involved in the formation of OH-BD as inscribed in Schedule-1 of this constitution will be considered as founder members. However, the founder member shall have to regularize their membership as general member or life member after approval of the constitution otherwise their membership will be ceased.

Any non-government organization or civil society organization can declare them as a Support Group. But a notification to National Coordination Committee is advisable to maintain a database of the support group for the ease of delivery of the actions of the OH-BD .

#### **7.0 Cancellation of membership:**

The National Coordination Committee (NCC) may cancel the membership of any individual/organization of any category if the individual or organization is involved in any activities contrary to the mission, objective and the spirit of the One Health Bangladesh. In case of cancellation of membership, the incumbent should be served with a show cause notice clearly indicating the reason for serving the notice and the actions that might be taken for their involvement in such activities. The NCC will take decision as appropriate.

#### **8.0 Subscription:**

- a. The National Coordination Committee of OH-BD shall determine the annual rate of subscription for General Member and one time rate of subscription of Life Member. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall approve the decision.
- b. Annual rate of subscription for organization membership and one-time rate

of subscription for permanent organization membership shall be determined by the National Committee. AGM shall finally approve the decision.

**9.0 Voting rights:** The General Member and Life members can cast only one vote in AGM and EGM

**10.0 Annual General Meeting:**

- a. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be the highest decision making body of One Health Bangladesh. The AGM shall take place once in a year.
- b. The AGM of OH-BD shall be consisting of all General Members, Life Members and Organization and Permanent Members.
- c. National Coordination Committee will submit Annual Report of its tenure in the AGM. The AGM will review the report and shall retain the right to instruct addition, subtraction, correction or approve the report as such.
- d. The National Coordination Committee shall submit a separate Financial Report in the AGM duly audited by a 3 (three) members committee nominated by the National Coordination Committee. AGM shall retain the right to instruct addition, subtraction, correction, approval or rejection of the report.
- e. The AGM will nominate a subject committee to propose the National Coordination Committee described in article 11. National Coordination Committee will be elected by the AGM for 2 (two) years once the term of the previous National Coordination Committee is over.

**11.0 Extra ordinary General Meeting (Ex-GM):**

a. In case of emergency, Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) could be convened

by the National Coordination Committee in addition to AGM. The Coordinator will issue the notice for Ex-GM.

**11.1 Extended Meeting:** Extended Meeting can be convened by the National Coordination Committee as and when felt appropriate by the National Coordination Committee. Members of all categories are eligible for attending the meeting, however, depending on the purpose of the meeting, the National Coordination Committee shall retain the right to invite members of specific geographical area ( City, town, districts ) but shall not discriminate among the members of the area. However, for calling an extended meeting, notice should be served by the General Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting.

## **12.0 The National Coordination Committee:**

a. The National Coordination Committee as constituted by the AGM shall resolve and approve the decisions of OH-BD during its tenure. The National Committee shall be accountable to the AGM. This Committee will work following the guidance given by the AGM. But in case of emergency, the national committee will retain the right to undertake any programme which is not conflicting with the spirit of the organization.

b. The National Coordination committee shall consist of one National Coordinator and Four Joint Coordinators. One General Secretary, One Treasurer and 24 members. A total of **31** members.

### **National Coordination Committee:**

1. National Coordinator – One (01)
2. Joint Coordinators- Four (04)
  - Joint Coordinators (Public Health)
  - Joint Coordinators (Animal Health)
  - Joint Coordinators (Wild Life & Environment)
  - Joint Coordinators (Others)
3. General Secretary – One (01)
4. Treasurer- One (01)
5. Members: **24** (twenty four)

## **13.0 Management and Procedure of the meeting:**

a. The ~~National~~ OH-BD Coordinator of National Coordination Committee shall chair the meetings of National Coordination Committee, AGM and EGM. In absence of the National Coordinator, a Joint Coordinator will chair the meeting. In absence of National Coordinator and Joint Coordinators, a member nominated by the majority of the members will chair the meeting.

b. **Quorum:** Presence of one third of the members will be required to conduct a meeting of the National Coordination Committee. To conduct EGM and AGM attendance of one fifth of total enrolled member will be considered will fulfill the quorum.

## **14.0 Co-option:**

The National Coordination Committee shall have the right to co-opt members from the members of any category if any portfolio becomes vacant. But

under any circumstances, the total number of co-opted member should not be more than one fifth of the member nominated by the AGM. In case of vacancy due to resignation or for any other reason, the National Committee will retain the right to replace the vacant position from the members of any category.

**15.0 Amendment of the constitution :**

Any amendment proposal should be placed before the AGM through National Coordination Committee. However, any member of one health can propose amendment to the National Coordination Committee. The National Coordination Committee will place the proposal(s) before the AGM for approval. Amendment shall be approved if two third members present in AGM consent to the amendment.



**Annexure-1: List of Founder Committee**

**National Coordinator:**

**Prof. Nitish C Debnath**

**Joint Coordinators**

**Prof Mahmudur Rahman**

**Dr. Shahidul Islam**

**Dr. Nazneen Akhter**

**Treasurer :**

**Dr. Be-Nazir Ahmed**

**Secretary:**

**Dr. Abul Kalam Azad**

**Members:**

- 1. Prof. Monsurul Amin**
- 2. Dr. Zahurul Karim**
- 3. Prof. Akhter Hossain**
- 4. Md. Abdur Razzaque Mia**
- 5. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed**
- 6. Dr. M.A. Matin**
- 7. Dr. Stephen P Luby**
- 8. Dr. M Salehuddin Khan**
- 9. Prof. A.K.M.Saifuddin**
- 10. Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed**
- 11. Dr. Md.Nazrul Islam Jhontu**
- 12. Dr. Dilip Kumar Ghose**
- 13. Representative ICCDR,B**
- 14. Dr. M. Sabrina Flora**
- 15. Md. Ashraf Ali Biswas**
- 16. Dr. ASM Alamgir**
- 17. Dr. Aparna Islam**
- 18. Dr. Sultan Mahmud**
- 19. Dr. M.Mushtuq Husain**
- 20. Dr. Safiul Ahad Sarder**
- 21. Dr. M.A. Malek**
- 22. Representative , BSMMU**

**Annexure-2: Approved in the last AGM (31 March, 2015)**

Membership fee: (Paid in Cash / by Cheque BDTaka)

- |                          |   |                |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual General Membership Fee–                        | Tk. 500.00     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Membership Fee – (one time)                      | Tk. 3,000.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual Organization Membership Fee–                   | Tk. 10,000.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Permanent Organization Membership Fee -<br>(One Time) | Tk. 100,000.00 |