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One Health Newsletter

Unified Voices for Global Health Security

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One Health
Secretariat

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Hundreds Convene in Dhaka to Celebrate World One Health Day 2024

On November 4, 2024, the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka became a hub of inspiration as the One Health Secretariat celebrated World One Health Day 2024. This year's theme, One Health in Communities, resonated with over three hundred One Health practitioners and policymakers who gathered to share experiences and reaffirm their commitment to a healthier future.



Photos by: USAID's
One Health Project



The event highlighted Bangladesh's achievements in advancing the One Health approach through partnership, collaboration, and coordination across sectors.

While addressing the audience, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, underscored the urgent need for environmentally responsible development to create a habitable world for all species. She expressed deep sadness at the gradual decimation of green spaces due to unchecked development projects, which are making countless species increasingly vulnerable to health threats. She also commended the organizers for their tireless efforts in uniting experts and stakeholders from human health, animal health, and environmental fields to tackle the intertwined crises that threaten our collective wellbeing.

Photo by: USAID's One Health Project



“ True progress respects all life—human and non-human alike.
To protect our future, we must safeguard the delicate
balance of our ecosystems.



Photo by: USAID's One Health Project

Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farida Akhter emphasized the critical importance of community engagement in advancing the One Health approach. She noted that empowering communities is essential to protect people and animals from diseases and other health hazards.

“United action is essential to tackle human, animal, and environmental health challenges. We need to reinforce our support for farmers and community, emphasizing awareness and preventive actions to protect our deep connection with nature for our survival.

She also stressed the need to involve farmers and their service providers, as nearly 70% of infectious diseases originate at the human-animal-environment interface. She expressed her appreciation to the organizers for arranging a video competition for students, recognizing that such initiatives will help instill One Health values in the minds of Bangladeshi youths.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Reed J. Aeschliman reiterated the importance of building community resilience and institutionalizing One Health through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. He also emphasized the need to strengthen systems to establish a sustainable Global Health Security architecture that can protect the world from pandemics and other health hazards.

Leaders from Bangladesh's public sector and diverse partner organizations also shared their insights at the event. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock A.T.M. Mostafa Kamal; Director General of Health Services Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Jafor; Bangladesh Forest Department's Chief Conservator of Forests Md. Amir Hosain Chowdhury; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative to Bangladesh Jiaoqun Shi; Acting World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Bangladesh Dr. Rajesh Narwal; and Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Director Prof. Tahmina Shirin, USAID One Health project's Chief of Party Prof. Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath all spoke with a shared conviction on the critical importance of multisectoral collaboration. Together, they emphasized the need to confront challenges such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, biodiversity loss, and the pressures of sustainable development. They called for uniting efforts across sectors and aligning national priorities with global One Health principles to protect ecosystems and improve the health and well-being of communities.

Dr. Md. Sarwar Bari, Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), underscored the alignment of One Health principles with Sustainable Development Goal 3. He highlighted the need for coordinated policies, multidisciplinary training, and community awareness to tackle health challenges effectively.

M. A. Akmal Hossain Azad, Senior Secretary, Health Service Division, MOHFW, thanked participants for their interest and commitment to fostering partnership to make Bangladesh a safer place to live.

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Photos by: USAID's
One Health Project



“Fostering partnership across communities, institutions, and disciplines is the key to protecting Bangladesh—and the world—from the threats of epidemics and pandemics, and to shaping a healthier, safer future for all.”



The event also featured an award ceremony recognizing the winners of the Extempore Speech and Quiz Competition 2023 and the Video Competition 2024, organized by One Health Bangladesh and the One Health Secretariat.

These talented young minds showcased exceptional understanding and passion for advancing the One Health agenda. Their ideas demonstrated the power of youth to think critically and creatively about solutions for strengthening community health systems.

During the ceremony, the participants' fresh perspectives and innovative approaches were unveiled and applauded. The video competition, in particular, highlighted the transformative potential of the next generation to redefine health systems and champion a healthier, more interconnected world.



Their enthusiasm and creativity serve as a powerful reminder of why investing in young talent is essential to drive lasting change. By nurturing their potential, the program is laying the foundation for a future where One Health principles thrive, fostering collaboration to achieve the best possible health outcomes for people, animals, and the environment.

IEDCR Director Prof. Dr. Tahmina Shirin closed the event with a powerful message:

“Let us empower our youth, foster collaboration, and take united action to protect all forms of life. Health is interconnected, and our collective effort will define the future of One Health in Bangladesh

The World One Health Day 2024 celebration was an unforgettable blend of inspiration, learning, and sheer excitement. The event buzzed with energy as participants from diverse fields engaged in thought-provoking discussions, interactive sessions, and creative competitions. The vibrant atmosphere was a testament to the perfect balance of serious advocacy and lighthearted camaraderie, making it a truly immersive experience. From the awe-inspiring speeches by renowned leaders to the electrifying youth competitions that showcased innovation and creativity, every moment was filled with enthusiasm and passion. The day was not just a celebration of One Health—it was a lively exchange of ideas, a showcase of talent, and a joyful reminder of the power of collaboration in shaping a healthier, more sustainable future.



Photos by: USAID's
One Health Project

THE FUTURE OF HEALTH IS ONE-AND IT STARTS WITH US TODAY!

Extending the Celebration: One Health Day 2024 at CVASU

Building on the global observance of One Health Day, the One Health Institute (OHI) at Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) hosted an inspiring event on November 4, 2024, that brought together more than 300 participants from diverse backgrounds to explore the need for a One Health Approach to address shared health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

The day began with a vibrant rally, where participants of all ages, including enthusiastic students from Chattogram Grammar School, marched side by side. Carrying colorful banners and placards advocating One Health principles, they demonstrated a shared commitment to tackling zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and environmental challenges.





Photos by: CVASU

The rally was followed by a formal inaugural session that set a hopeful tone. Prof. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of CVASU, spoke passionately about the urgency of collaboration. “Integrated solutions at the human-animal-environment interface are essential to safeguard our future. The lessons from recent global health crises demand that we work together across sectors,” he noted, inspiring the audience to think beyond boundaries.

Throughout the day, interactive activities brought complex One Health themes to life in engaging and accessible ways. School children took part in lively educational games—like ball-toss challenges and puzzles—that reinforced key health and hygiene practices in fun, memorable moments they will carry with them.

Meanwhile, university students embraced the opportunity to showcase their talents and ideas. The quiz competition and extempore speech contest became platforms for these bright young minds to present innovative solutions and share their visions for a healthier, more interconnected world.

From the youngest pupils to seasoned professionals, the event was a vivid reminder that building a safer, healthier future starts with coming together, learning from one another, and nurturing a shared sense of purpose.

The keynote presentation by Dr. Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury highlighted Bangladesh's unique health challenges, such as zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. A panel discussion further explored actionable solutions to issues, like microplastic pollution, unsafe farming practices, and waste management, showcasing CVASU's commitment to finding real-world applications for One Health principles.

Policy support and community engagement are essential to fostering sustainable health practices and combating these threats.

The event concluded with a prize-giving ceremony that recognized participants across activities, creating a sense of achievement and encouragement. In his closing remarks, Prof. Md. Ahasanul Hoque, Director of OHI, reflected on the event's success: "The journey toward a holistic One Health approach requires time, teamwork, and sustained effort. By working together, we can secure a healthier and safer future for all."

*Dr. Mohiuddin Ahsanul Kabir Chowdhury
Takeda Chair of Public Health
Asian University for Women*

The One Health Day celebration at CVASU fostered collaboration and demonstrated how interactive, inclusive events can inspire action and innovation. The event left participants energized and committed to advancing One Health principles in their communities and beyond.



Photos by: CVASU



Bangladesh Marks World Wildlife Day 2025

On March 3, 2025, Bangladesh joined the global celebration of World Wildlife Day, observed each year since the United Nations General Assembly declared it in 2013. This year's theme, "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet", highlighted the need to channel resources into safeguarding biodiversity while supporting sustainable livelihoods.

The Bangladesh Forest Department, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, hosted a discussion event at the Haimanti Auditorium. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Water Resources, attended as Chief Guest while Additional Secretary Md. Khayrul Hasan, wildlife specialist Dr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan, and other distinguished guests, including academics and conservation leaders, joined the discussion.

The session was presided over by Md. Amir Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Conservator of Forests. Speakers underscored the importance of innovative financing solutions for conservation, the role of communities in protecting biodiversity, and the urgency of action to address threats to wildlife habitats.

To engage and inspire the public, the celebration also featured wildlife photography and wildlife identification competitions for students and wildlife enthusiasts. These activities aimed to raise awareness and encourage hands-on involvement in conservation efforts.



Photos by: Bangladesh Forest Department

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Celebrating World Veterinary Day with Purpose and Passion

Every year, the last Saturday of April marks World Veterinary Day, recognizing the vital role veterinarians play in global health, animal welfare, and society. This year's theme, "Animal Health Takes a Team," celebrates the power of collaboration in delivering quality veterinary care.

Bringing that spirit to life, the Bangladesh Veterinary Association (BVA) hosted an Inter-Veterinary School Parliamentary Debate Competition that was dynamic and inspiring. Sixteen teams from fifteen veterinary institutions across the country came together to compete, connect, and champion the power of ideas. The preliminary rounds, held on April 18, 2025 at the Bangladesh Veterinary Council, showcased intellect, passion, and teamwork.

The final debate on April 25 featured Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Maulana Bhashani Science and Technology University, with BAU securing the championship title. Mashrul Ahasan of BAU was named Best Debater, recognized for his clarity and persuasive delivery.

At the prize-giving ceremony, Dr. Safiul Ahad Sardar, Convenor of BVA, chaired the session, while Professor Dr. G.K.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Gazipur Agricultural University (GAU), presented the awards to the winning teams.

This vibrant celebration of World Veterinary Day not only showcased the academic excellence and communication skills of future veterinarians, but also embodied the spirit of this year's theme, a powerful reminder that animal health truly takes a team



Photos by: Bangladesh Veterinary Association

Uniting for a Healthier Future: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance Through Awareness and Action

From November 18–24, 2024, the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in collaboration with USAID’s One Health project, organized World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) at 27 government medical colleges across Bangladesh.

Under the theme “Educate. Advocate. Act Now,” the week-long campaign engaged more than 4,500 participants, including faculty members, students, nurses, and hospital administrators. Rallies and seminars created a vibrant platform for learning, discussion, and renewed commitment to fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Comprehensive presentations explored AMR’s impact on public health and offered practical solutions grounded in a One Health approach. Speakers emphasized the importance of antimicrobial stewardship, expanding laboratory capacity, and ensuring compliance with the recently enacted Drug and Cosmetic Act 2023.



Photos by: USAID’s One Health Project



Photo by: USAID's One Health Project

A technical workshop was held at Square Hospital as part of the campaign, and it was observed that the hospital regularly reviews the compliance of clinical practitioners to standard treatment guidelines for antimicrobial use. The guideline developed earlier, are regularly updated based on learnings from outcomes of usages.

Participants also called for urgent action to improve infection prevention and control practices and to strengthen microbiology laboratories so that evidence-based treatment decisions can be made more effectively. Many highlighted that sustained collaboration across sectors would be essential to slow the spread of resistance.

The observance of WAAW at medical colleges created an inspiring platform for academicians, clinicians, health managers, and development partners to come together and chart a shared path forward. By combining education, advocacy, and coordinated action, they are helping safeguard the effectiveness of life-saving medicines for the future.

II: TRACKING THE THREAT

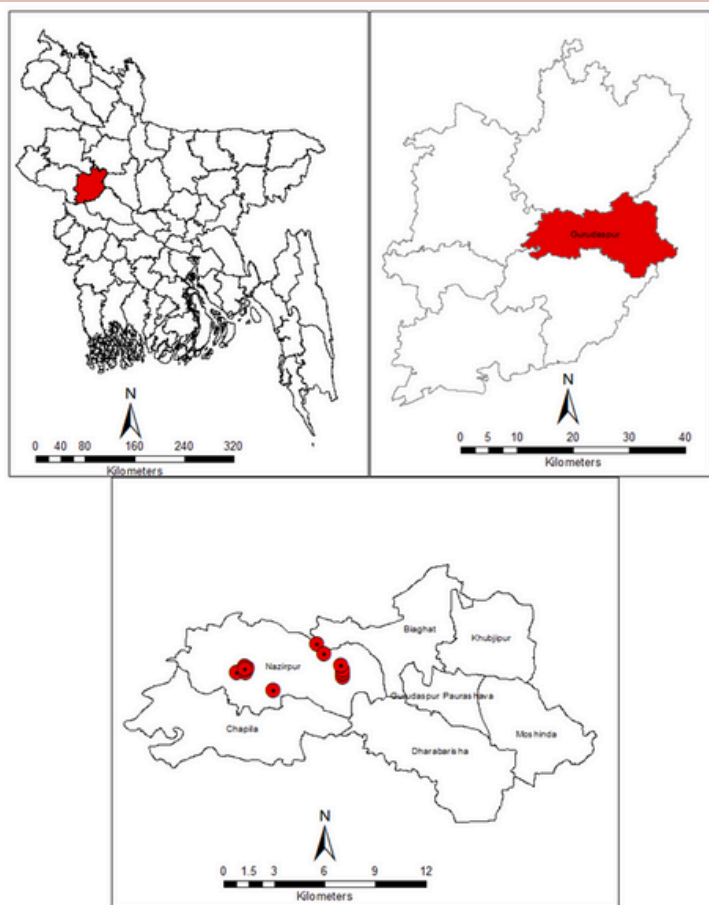
Swift Response, Strong Coordination: Anthrax Outbreak Contained in Natore

In late October 2024, an unusual wave of livestock deaths in Nazirpur union of Gurudaspur upazila (Natore district) raised alarm among local communities. Responding quickly, a joint team from the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and USAID’s One Health project visited the area from November 2–3, 2024 to investigate. Their findings confirmed the presence of anthrax bacteria in meat samples. Additionally, eleven individuals who had handled the infected animals were diagnosed with anthrax.

The outbreak was linked to livestock grazing on contaminated field in flood-affected fields. The IEDCR was promptly notified and dispatched a team to support the investigation. Local authorities also acted fast. Nearly 4,000 livestock were vaccinated immediately, while awareness campaigns educated farmers about safe handling and proper disposal of dead animals. Mobile courts were also deployed to stop the sale of meat from sick or dead animals, safeguarding public health.

A follow-up investigation in late December showed remarkable impact of these efforts. Over 16,000 cattle and 600 goats had been vaccinated, and biosafety practices across the community had significantly improved. All previously infected individuals recovered fully, and one newly identified case of anthrax was successfully treated.

An after-action review emphasized the importance of joint outbreak investigations and called for further study into rare cases of palpebral anthrax, an eye infection identified through hospital based surveillance. This successful response underscores the power of the One Health approach, where animal, human, and environmental health sectors work side by side to contain disease and reduce future risks through vaccination, community education, and strong coordinated actions.



Anthrax investigation locations included:
Upazila Livestock Office, Gurudaspur,
Natore, and Nazirpur Union

Spike in Dog Bite Cases In Dohar Upazila

On December 12, 2024, the Daily Jugantor reported that 105 people had been bitten by dogs within just 15 days in Dohar Upazila. In response, the DLS, Zoonotic Disease Control Program, Communicable Disease Control (CDC), DGHS, and USAID's One Health project team launched an urgent investigation.

On December 17, the team visited the Upazila Health Office and Upazila Livestock Office and Veterinary Hospital to collect data and speak with local stakeholders. The investigation revealed a large number of bite incidents affecting both people and animals. Between October and December 2024, 426 people were bitten by dogs or cats, and over the course of the year, 11 goats, one calf, and seven cats were attacked.

The team uncovered critical insights into the rising risk of animal bites in Dohar. Of the cases analyzed, 57 percent involved dogs—mostly street dogs—while 43 percent were caused by cats. In many cases, people defending their animals became victims themselves.

During field visits, numerous roaming dogs were observed across different neighborhoods—a stark reminder of the urgent need for action. While mass dog vaccination campaigns had been conducted in 2021 and 2022, covering over 2,000 and 1,700 dogs, respectively, no follow-up campaigns had taken place in the past two years, creating a gap in rabies prevention and leaving the community at greater risk.

Adding to the challenge, the Upazila Livestock Officer reported that pet cat ownership is on the rise. While many owners try to vaccinate their cats, the unavailability of vaccines at government facilities means they must rely on costly pharmacy supplies. For some, the expense discourages vaccination, leaving cats unprotected and increasing the risk of rabies spreading further.





Photos by: Epidemiology Unit,
Department of Livestock Services

Among the stories gathered, one tragedy stood out. A woman died after a dog bite on November 18. A verbal autopsy with her family revealed she had declined post-exposure vaccination because she was pregnant and feared it would harm her unborn child. Instead, she turned to traditional remedies, which sadly failed to save her.

In another incident, a woman was bitten on her arms and face while bravely trying to protect her duck from a stray dog. Acting quickly, she washed the wounds with soap and water before being taken to the Upazila Health Complex and then referred to the Infectious Disease Hospital in Dhaka. There, she received life-saving rabies immunoglobulin and the full vaccination course.

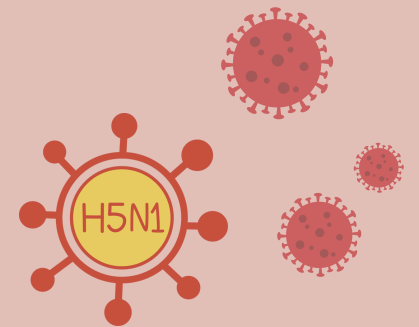
These events are a sobering reminder that rabies is a deadly but preventable disease. Timely vaccination of animals, affordable access to vaccines, and immediate treatment for bite victims are essential to save lives. They also show why public awareness and coordinated action are needed now more than ever to protect both people and animals.

One Virus, Many Hosts: What Three Cases in Bangladesh Reveal About One Health

Between March and May 2025, Bangladesh faced three alarming but interconnected events that served as urgent reminders of just how closely human, animal, and environmental health are linked. Each case was different, a government poultry farm, a backyard household, and a private animal facility but all carried a common thread- when even one part of the system fails, the consequences can ripple across the others.

The outbreak at the government poultry breeding and development farm in Jessore happened in March. A sudden die-off of chickens triggered immediate action. Laboratory tests at the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory (CDIL) confirmed the presence of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza. Authorities culled over 2,000 chickens and destroyed nearly 2,000 eggs to contain the outbreak. A joint epidemiological investigation by the DLS revealed several troubling risk factors: a nearby public dustbin where dead birds were being discarded, a neighboring hatchery with weak biosecurity, and poor vaccination coverage. These gaps likely contributed to the virus's spread and highlighted the need for stronger coordination and stricter enforcement of farm-level biosecurity practices.

Just weeks later and only a few kilometers away, an 8-year-old boy in Sirajsingh village fell ill with fever, neck stiffness, and confusion. After visiting a local practitioner and receiving treatment at Jessore General Hospital, he recovered. But on April 30, a sample collected through icddr,b's hospital-based surveillance tested positive for H5. A investigation team from IEDCR, icddr,b, DLS and the FAO launched an investigation on May 2. They identified three suspected cases and twelve close contacts including family members and neighbors, all of whom later tested negative for influenza A. The boy's family reported that their backyard chickens and ducks had died suddenly earlier that month, a pattern echoed by their neighbors. Though animal or environmental samples from the area tested negative, the case illustrated how quietly and quickly such virus circulate through farms, often going unnoticed until it affects human.



Meanwhile, a different kind of alarm was raised from Narayanganj's Godnail area. A five-month-old female serval cat, an exotic species imported from South Africa, died suddenly after being fed raw chicken bought from a local market. Tests conducted by the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) confirmed the cat had contracted the same H5N1 strain.

A joint DLS-IEDCR team conducted an investigation and uncovered that a second serval, housed at the same farm, had died on the same day symptoms appeared. While samples from other animals, humans, and the local poultry market tested negative, the case revealed a high-risk practice: feeding raw, unregulated meat to exotic animals without knowing its source or safety.

All three cases involved the same clade, showing evidence of reassortment between clades 2.3..2.1a and 2.3.4.4b. While clade 2.3.2.1a is endemic in Bangladesh, clade 2.3.4.4b has been circulating in both sides of the Atlantic among migratory birds and mammals. The reassortment raises concern about potential adaptation to mammalian hosts.

Despite their differences, these events carry a shared vulnerability and a powerful lesson: whether it is through improper carcass disposal, poor vaccination coverage, lack of farm biosecurity, or unsafe feeding practices, zoonotic threats like avian influenza can cross boundaries silently and rapidly.

These incidents are not just outbreaks, they are signals. Signals that more robust safety measures, broader public awareness, and cross-sector coordination are urgently needed. They show why the One Health approach uniting human, animal and environmental health is just not a theory but a necessity. To prevent the next outbreak, we must act together, before viruses do.



Photos by: Epidemiology Unit,
Department of Livestock Services.

Bangladesh Strengthens One Health Approach with Revised Strategic Framework

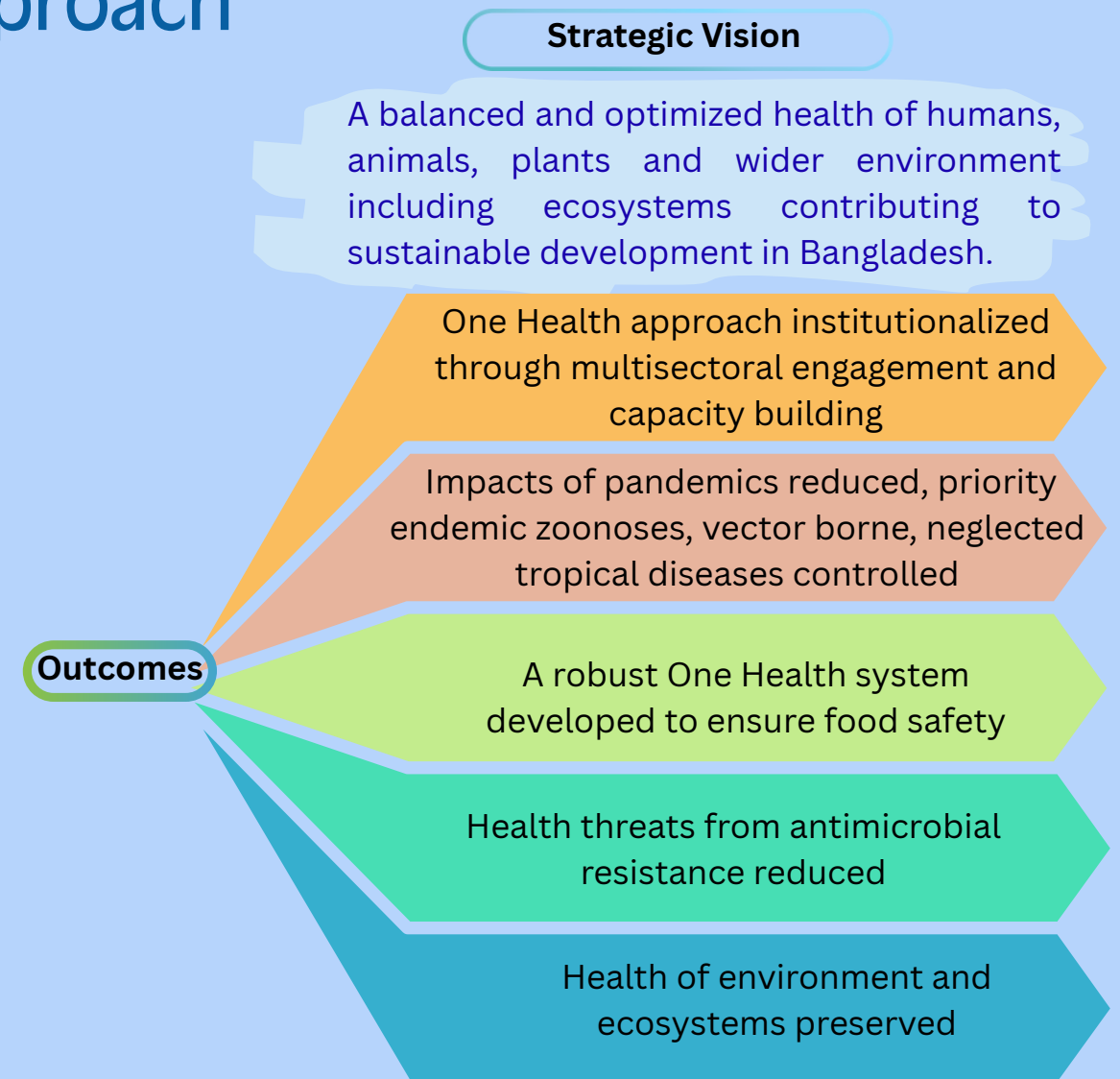
Bangladesh has taken a bold step to strengthen its defense against health threats that impact people, animals, and the environment. With the previous One Health Strategic Framework (OHSF) having expired in 2022, and with global and national contexts rapidly evolving, Bangladesh has updated the strategy to meet the emerging challenges head-on.

The revised Bangladesh One Health Strategic Framework 2025-2030 reflects lessons learned, changing community needs and the government's growing commitment to health security. Developed through a series of inclusive workshop engaging stakeholder from across sectors, the updated framework is fully aligned with the Joint Plan of Action led by the global quadripartite partnership of WHO, FAO, WOA and UNEP.

The revised strategy responds to a complex web of threats, ranging from climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution to zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). These challenges are exacerbated by factors such as high population density, urbanization, and intensified agriculture, making it clear that no single sector can address them alone.

The framework envisions a climate-resilient, multisectoral One Health system that ensures balanced and optimal health for humans, animals, and ecosystems.

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The revised framework is guided by a clear Theory of Change. It identifies three change pathways that will lead to the long-term outcomes and strategic vision:

- Policy, legislation, advocacy, and financing
- Organizational development and sectoral integration
- Data, evidence, and knowledge sharing.

Together, these pathways aim to drive key thematic goals: preventing and managing pandemics and endemic diseases, containing antimicrobial resistance, ensuring food safety, and strengthening environmental and ecosystem health. All of these contribute to a single, powerful vision of balanced and optimized health of humans, animals, plants, and the wider environment, including ecosystems, contributing to sustainable development in Bangladesh.



The revised One Health Strategic Framework is more than an update—it is a call to action. It marks a shift from reactive response to proactive prevention, recognizing that protecting health in today’s interconnected world requires collaboration across all sectors. As Bangladesh moves forward with this integrated approach, the framework provides a timely and practical tool for addressing current threats while preparing for those yet to come. Through strong political will, sustained investment, and collective effort, Bangladesh is laying the foundation for a healthier, more resilient future for all.



Photos by: ECTAD, FAO
Bangladesh

Technical Advisory Committee Endorses One Health Strategy

The Technical Advisory Committee on One Health convened on July 13, 2025 at the IEDCR. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Md. Abu Jafor, Director General of Health Services and Chair of the Committee.

Prof. Tahmina Shirin, Director of IEDCR and Member Secretary of the Committee, presented the key highlights of the Draft National One Health Strategic Framework.

Participants included senior representatives from relevant ministries and departments, including the Additional Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Deputy Conservator of Forests of Bangladesh Forest Department and the Director (Administration) of the Department of Livestock Services, among others.

The Committee endorsed the draft strategy and agreed to forward it to the Interministerial Steering Committee on One Health for final approval. It also recommended holding a high-level meeting on One Health governance to strengthen political commitment and ensure cross-sectoral leadership.



Photos by: IEDCR

Bangladesh Prioritizes High-Threat Pathogens Using WHO's STAR Tool

Bangladesh has taken a big step forward in protecting public health by identifying the country's most dangerous pathogens using the World Health Organization's Strategic Toolkit for Assessing Risks (STAR). Guided by an One Health Approach, experts from human, animal, and environmental health and other key sectors collaborated to assess threats.

A core team of Bangladeshi specialists, supported by Queensland University in Australia, initially shortlisted **17 high-threat pathogens**. On April 27, 2025, professionals came together to evaluate each pathogen's spread, severity of disease, treatment options, and social impact. After a careful assessment, the team categorized the pathogens in three categories.

- **Top risk Pathogens :** COVID-19, Nipah virus, Dengue, Cholera
- **High Risk Pathogens:** Tuberculosis (TB), Influenza, Rabies, Rotavirus
- **Medium Risk Pathogens:** Anthrax, Japanese Encephalitis, Zika virus

While all these diseases demand attention, this prioritization will help Bangladesh focus resources where they matter most, strengthening public health planning and boosting preparedness and smarter investments for future pandemics.

The prioritization workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Tahmina Shirin, Director of IEDCR, with WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and WHO Bangladesh Country Office representatives in attendance.

A critical step forward, this initiative will make Bangladesh safer and more resilient against emerging health threats.



Photos by: IEDCR

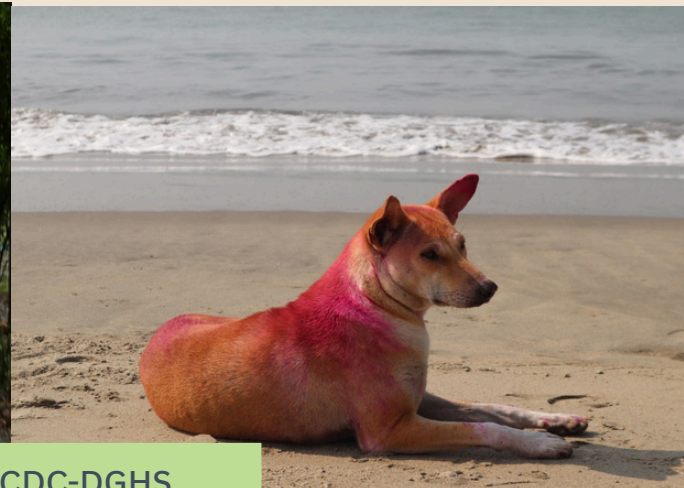
Bangladesh on the Path to Making Rabies History

Rabies is among the deadliest diseases known to humankind—100% fatal, yet 100% preventable. For decades, dog bites put countless families in Bangladesh at risk. Each year, over half a million people are bitten by dogs, and before 2010, more than 2,000 lives were lost annually to rabies. Behind every number was a child, a parent, or a loved one—lives that could have been saved.

Determined to end this tragedy, Bangladesh set a bold goal to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The strategy focused on saving both people and animals—vaccinating dogs to stop the disease at its source, educating communities about prevention, and ensuring that every bite victim received timely, lifesaving treatment. Since the program began in 2013, the progress has been remarkable. Nearly **3 million doses of vaccines are given to free-roaming dogs**, and over **4 million people have received life-saving rabies vaccines** through about 400 Integrated Bite Management Centers spread nationwide. Doctors, nurses, veterinarians, and dog catchers have been trained to ensure no one is left behind. Awareness campaigns have reached millions, spreading the vital message that rabies can—and must—be stopped.

The results speak for themselves. Instead of thousands of deaths each year, since 2013 Bangladesh has reported just 875 rabies deaths—meaning more than **28,000 lives have been saved**.

This journey has been led by CDC/DGHS, with support from the DLS and other One Health partners. Together, they have turned what once felt impossible into a real and tangible hope: a Bangladesh free from rabies. If this momentum continues, rabies deaths will soon be a thing of the past—turning a once-feared disease into nothing more than a chapter in history books.



Photos by: CDC-DGHS

Bangladesh Sets Up Divisional AMR Hubs for Stronger Coordination



Antimicrobial Resistance is not just a medical challenge—it affects families, farmers, and entire communities. When antimicrobials stop working, common infections can once again become deadly. Tackling this silent crisis requires everyone—doctors, veterinarians, farmers, laboratories, policymakers, and the general public—to work together.

To strengthen this fight, the UK government's Fleming Fund Country Grant project has been working closely with CDC/DGHS and other One Health partners. Recognizing that fragmented, siloed efforts waste time, resources, and lives, CDC convened a landmark workshop in March 2025 bringing together experts from human health, animal health, fisheries, laboratories, private sector, and development partners to chart a common way forward.

The result was the creation of divisional-level One Health AMR hubs—a new platform to coordinate action closer to communities. Each hub will be chaired by the Divisional Director of Health Services and include senior representatives from health, livestock, fisheries, and private sectors.

The Divisional Hub will:

- Generate and share reliable AMR data
- Expand testing facilities in medical colleges, hospitals, and laboratories
- Support local stewardship programs that promote responsible antibiotic use
- Build public awareness on the dangers of misuse
- Strengthen public-private collaboration

Government leaders have already voiced strong support for this initiative. Line Director of CDC Prof. Dr. Halimur Rashid confirmed the ministry's commitment, while IEDCR Director Prof. Dr. Tahmina Shirin assured technical assistance to bring the hubs to life. By joining forces at the divisional level, Bangladesh is taking a big step to protect people, animals, and the environment, ensuring life-saving medicines remain effective for generations to come.

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Bangladesh Sparks Regional Momentum on Investment Planning

Bangladesh has taken the lead in a growing regional effort to make One Health investment more strategic, sustainable, and collaborative. Under the World Bank-funded FAO project "National One Health Investment Planning Support: Technical Assistance on Pandemic Preparedness and Response through a One Health approach", and with support from the World Bank and Quadripartite partners, Bangladesh became the first country in South Asia to develop costed investment cases aligned with its updated One Health Strategic Framework (2025–2030).

The process involved national assessments, wide stakeholder engagement, and the use of the Animal-Human Health Return on Investment (ROI) tool. This approach not only helped prioritize key actions but also generated critical economic evidence to guide decision-making and attract funding.

Bangladesh's experience has already informed and accelerated similar efforts in Bhutan and is now shaping the early stages of work in Sri Lanka. These cross-country linkages reflect a growing alliance across South Asia, where shared learning and coordinated planning are proving vital to advancing the One Health agenda.



Photo by: ECTAD, FAO Bangladesh

Merieux Foundation and One Health Bangladesh Explore a Shared Path Forward

On July 14, 2025, the meeting room at IEDCR buzzed with the promise of collaboration. Two experts from France's Merieux Foundation, Dr. Sonia Guiramand, a laboratory medicine specialist and head of the Technical Aid Project in Bangladesh, and Dr. Sebastien Marcombe, medical entomologist, sat down with the One Health Bangladesh team to explore how their shared goals could come together more meaningfully.

They were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath, National Coordinator of One Health Bangladesh (OHB), alongside Dr. Sharmin Sultana, Acting General Secretary; Dr. Abul Kalam, Treasurer; and other members of the OHB team. The Merieux Foundation is currently working to improve lab quality at both IEDCR and the National Institute of Laboratory Medicine and Referral Centre. Their support includes capacity building for genome sequencing and bioinformatics, strengthening dengue surveillance, and helping to update Bangladesh's National Public Health Laboratory Strategy for infectious diseases.

During the meeting, Prof. Debnath walked the team through OHB's current work under the One Health Strategic Framework 2025 to 2030. He noted how closely the Technical Aid Project's objectives align with national One Health priorities and offered OHB's support to strengthen the collaboration. Dr. Guiramand expressed genuine interest in OHB's role and ongoing efforts. She thanked the team for the warm welcome and looked forward to working together in areas that matter deeply to both institutions, including entomology, surveillance, and stronger lab systems. The meeting may have been brief, but it laid the groundwork for something bigger. Partnerships like this show how international allies can come together to support local leadership and move the needle on health security, one conversation at a time.



Photo by: Merieux Foundation

VECTORACT Builds Skills to Tackle Vector-Borne Diseases in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is boosting its capacity to combat vector-borne diseases through the European Union-funded VECTORACT project, a three-year program aimed at equipping graduate students and early-career professionals with the skills and resources to address these challenges through a One Health approach.

Implemented by partners from Hungary, Austria, and Bangladesh, and coordinated by Eötvös Loránd University, the initiative began with an online course followed by a two-week in-person training in Chattogram and Rajshahi. Twenty trainees learned vector biology, trapping and identification techniques, and molecular surveillance tools. Each is now conducting an individual research project with one year of mentorship and the goal of producing a publishable manuscript.

A major milestone was the stakeholder mapping workshop and One Health symposium held in both cities, which gathered experts from multiple sectors to identify roles, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration. The results will inform policy recommendations for stronger, integrated approaches to prevention and control.

By developing skilled professionals and fostering cross-sector collaboration, VECTORACT is laying the groundwork for improved preparedness and response to vector-borne disease threats in Bangladesh.



Photos by:European Union-funded
VECTORACT project





A Global Step Forward: One Health Secures Its Place in the Pandemic Agreement



WHO / Chris Black
The conclusion of
discussions on the
Pandemic Agreement in
Committee at the World
Health Assembly 2025.

Credits

On May 20, 2024, a ripple of hope echoed across the globe as the World Health Assembly reached a historic milestone: the adoption of the long-awaited Pandemic Agreement. After three years of rigorous debate, diplomacy, and determination, world leaders came together to sign a pact that promises a safer, fairer, and more prepared world in the face of future pandemics.

Among the agreement's most significant achievements from One Health perspective is Article 5, a bold declaration that puts One Health at the heart of pandemic preparedness. The article affirms what many scientists, practitioners, and communities have long known: that the health of humans, animals and environment are intertwined.

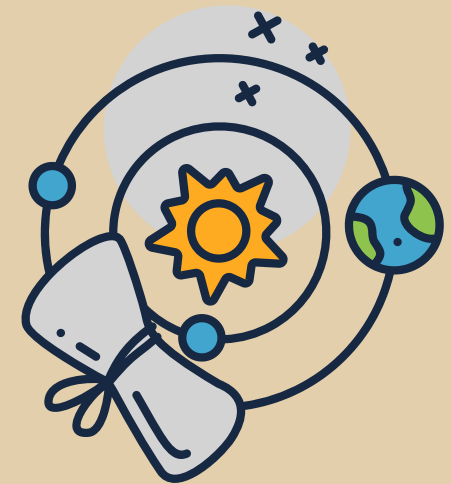
With the adoption of this agreement, countries have made a powerful commitment to work across sectors like human health, veterinary care, agriculture, and environmental protection. They have pledged to develop and regularly update national policies rooted in the One Health approach, ensuring that prevention and response efforts are coordinated, community-driven, and inclusive.

The agreement goes further. Recognizing that strong systems rely on capable people, governments have also agreed to invest in joint training and continuous education for professionals working at human, animal, and environmental interface. These skilled, multidisciplinary teams will be vital in spotting emerging threats early and taking swift, decisive action.

This moment marks a turning point: no longer will pandemic response be viewed through a single lens. Instead, the world has stepped into a new era of unity, shared responsibility, and proactive resilience. The One Health pillar of the Pandemic agreement is more than policy, it's a promise to future generations that collaboration will be foundational stones for building safer future for humanity, animals and environment.

In a world still healing from the scars of COVID-19, this agreement is more than just a document. It is a symbol of progress. And with One Health now embedded in global strategy, the path ahead looks stronger and more connected than ever before.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the WHO Pandemic Agreement.



VI: FROM THE FRONT



Bangladesh's Youth Take Charge of One Health

The energy was unmistakable in Khulna University during May 2025 as over 160 students from more than 10 universities and 13 disciplines gathered for the 2nd National One Health Youth Symposium. What began in 2023 as a bold youth-led initiative has grown into a national platform for learning, collaboration, and action.

Co-organized by the International Veterinary Students' Association units at Patuakhali Science and Technology University and Khulna Agricultural University, this year's symposium brought together students of veterinary medicine, public health, environmental science, pharmacy, parasitology, fisheries, and agriculture to explore real-world health and sustainability issues through a One Health lens.

The event featured scientific seminars, hands-on workshops, and career-focused sessions. It also welcomed speakers and contributors from national and international institutions including the Department of Livestock Services, One Health Bangladesh, the Fleming Fund Country Grant, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Sylhet Agricultural University, American International University-Bangladesh, the World Organization for Animal Health, Nymat Nepal, IAAS, and others. Their participation added diverse perspectives and inspired the next generation of One Health leaders.

A standout feature was the Train New Trainers model, preparing participants to become peer educators and ambassadors of One Health in their institutions and communities.

In a country where One Health is still missing from formal education, these students are not waiting. They are leading from the front and building a future where health is addressed as a shared responsibility.



Photos by: The Fleming Fund

Upcoming Events

GAMRIC – Global AMR Innovators Conference



October 1–3, 2025



London, UK

International One Health Symposium



October 13–15, 2025



Berlin, Germany

17th International Scientific Conference



October 26–28, 2025



CVASU, Khulshi, Chattogram

Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC)



January 26–31, 2026



Bangkok, Thailand

Infectious Diseases Congress 2026



March 23–25, 2026



Paris, France

Global Health Security Conference 2026



June 9–12, 2026



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

10th World Congress on Infectious Diseases (INFECTION 2026)



June 25–27, 2026



Barcelona, Spain

5th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR



June 29–30, 2026



Abuja, Nigeria

9th World One Health Congress



September 4–7, 2026



Lisbon, Portugal

Capacity Building & Trainings



Opportunities to strengthen knowledge and skills in One Health, public health, and related areas.

Fundamentals of One Health Practice (OHWA)



Self-paced



Online

Public Health Emergency Management (IAPH)



Self-paced



Online

Environmental Health (IAPH)



Self-paced



Online

Towards an Integrated One Health Approach: Raising Awareness and Enhancing Competencies of Frontline

Healthcare Workers in Laos (SEAOHWA)



Self-paced



Online

One Health & Infectious Disease (Postgraduate)



Academic Year 2025–2026



University of Glasgow, UK

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From Editors' Desk!

It's been more than seven years since the first issue of Interface was published. The One Health Secretariat initially planned to release this issue in January. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the publication was delayed, and the editorial board takes full responsibility for that. Some of the stories may feel dated, but we consider them valuable records of our journey.

This issue comes to you in a new format and without any external funding support.

This newsletter is by you, for you, and of you.

If it's landing in your inbox, it's because you care about One Health. If you're reading it on the One Health website, it's because you care. And if someone has forwarded it to you, it's because they know you care too.

This is your newsletter. We cannot continue without your support. Do you have a story, insight, or idea that could inspire action? Please feel free to share your feedback — on the content, the design, or anything else that could help improve the quality of this publication.

We're also looking for contributors to share their expertise, experiences, and perspectives in future issues. Whether it's groundbreaking research, a personal story, or an innovative project addressing One Health challenges, your voice matters.

Send us your ideas or completed pieces at onehealthsecretariat@gmail.com. Let's work together to make a difference, one story at a time.

INTERFACE

One Health Newsletter