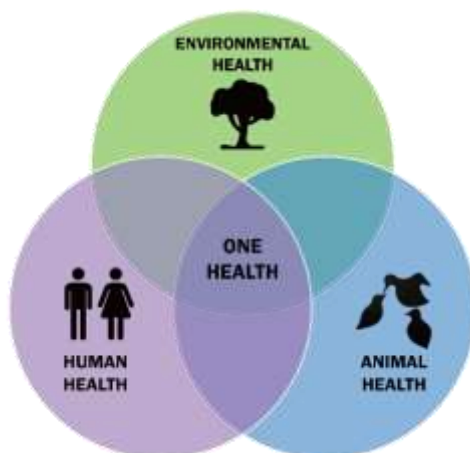


The One Health approach

One Health is defined as a « collaborative, multisectoral, transdisciplinary approach - working at the local, regional, national, and global levels - to achieve optimal health and wellness outcomes by recognizing the interconnections among people, animals, plants, and their shared environment » (One Health Commission 2019). This concept offers opportunities to address the complex challenges at the interfaces between humans, animals, and the environment-especially within livestock-dependent communities.

The term appeared in the 2000s following studies that showed that 60% of known human infectious diseases and 75% of emerging diseases are of animal origin (domestic or wild)¹. This term was thus advocated to show the inextricable link between animal diseases, public health and the transformation of our ecosystem. In order to respond to these challenges, a systemic approach is needed.

As highlighted in the Agropolis International publication on "Global Health", these systems approaches have in common "*to connect different disciplines; to manage different spatial and temporal scales; to widen the circle of knowledge sharing through cross-sectoral implementation; and to co-construct management modes by involving all stakeholders*"².



The "One Health" approach³

Although widely recognized and highly advanced theoretically, the One Health approach is still poorly implemented on the ground, particularly in development and humanitarian aid contexts. Diversification of fields, farms and landscapes holds promise for making food systems more sustainable. Farmers alone cannot achieve this major transformation. Actions are needed along the entire agricultural value chain, from producer to consumer, as well as investments in innovative models⁴.

In April 2021, UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw stated that "up to 70% of the most recent emerging infectious diseases and epidemics originate from animals, which intersect when land-use

¹ Louise H. Taylor, Sophia M. Latham, Mark E.J. Woolhouse, *Risk factors for human disease emergence*, 2001

² Agropolis International, *Global health: Man, animal, plants, environment: for integrated approaches to health*, 2019

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Wanger, T.C., DeClerck, F., Garibaldi, L.A. et al, *Integrating agroecological production in a robust post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, 2020

change alters natural habitats, increasing the close interactions between wildlife and humans." In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the intrinsic connections between human, environmental, and animal health is on the agenda of international institutions⁵. Intersectoral and holistic solutions, with health at the heart, are being promoted in these international frameworks. They include decarbonization measures, reduction of hazardous air pollutants, ending deforestation as well as linking public health actors, researchers and policy makers.⁶

Working on global health at a national workshop Désertif'actions 2022

Question to be addressed: in what ways does agroecology contribute to the One Health approach and provide answers to the global challenges of human, animal and environmental health?

Learn more about global health:

- [The WHO website](#)
- [CIRAD website](#)

⁵ CNULCD, World Health Day 2021: <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/world-health-day-2021>

⁶ Wael K. Al-Delaim, Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, *Health of People, Health of Planet and Our Responsibility. Climate Change, Air Pollution and Health*, 2020