

## Evidences

### Study #4064

#### Contributing Projects:

- P356 - Evidence that counts for zoonoses
- P339 - Better evidence on foodborne disease in target regions

#### Part I: Public communications

**Type:** OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

**Status:** New

**Year:** 2020

**Title:** Greater Integration of the Environmental Sector in CGIAR's One Health Activities Following the Emergence and Global Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Called SARS-CoV-2

#### Short outcome/impact statement:

Origins of recent zoonotic epidemics link the research themes of human, animal and environmental health: the three tenets of One Health. Within CGIAR, the environmental sector has not been fully integrated into One Health. In 2020, a major report, Preventing the Next Pandemic argued for better ways of achieving trans-disciplinarity in One Health. The report, alongside targeted CGIAR communication around One Health, has resulted in more partnerships with environmental institutions and a strengthened CGIAR influence in One Health.

## **Outcome story for communications use:**

COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus has demonstrated the intricate relationship between people, animals and the environment, the three pillars of One Health. Within CGIAR, the environmental sector has not been fully integrated into One Health, however it is a key component to the emerging One Health approaches because land use is probably the single biggest contributor to increasing cases of zoonotic disease, diseases passed from animals to humans. If landscape policies and investments continue to be made without a One Health lens, then opportunities will be missed to address the biggest challenges of our time.

To ensure more partnerships with environmental institutions, and to strengthen CGIAR influence in One Health, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) published a major report in June 2020 Preventing the next pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission. The report focuses specifically on the environmental side of the zoonotic dimension of disease outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic. It fills a critical knowledge gap and provides policymakers with a better understanding of the context and nature of potential future zoonotic disease outbreaks.

The report recommends the need for a One Health approach - which unites public health, veterinary and environmental expertise - as the optimal method for preventing as well as responding to zoonotic disease outbreaks and pandemics.

To further strengthen the partnership, ILRI and UNEP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that provides a framework for cooperation in common areas of concern, among them sustainable livestock development, One Health, and climate mitigation and resilience.

On 28 October 2020, ILRI and UNEP hosted a session A One Health approach for environmental, animal and human health, at the Global Landscapes Forum Biodiversity Digital Conference: One World, One Health. This session brought experts in One Health, Agriculture, environment and human and animal health.

ILRI and Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) also held a session titled Prevention is cheaper than cure: One Health in practice for sustainable livestock production in sub-Saharan Africa at the virtual 13th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) hosted by Germany.

These sessions in major conferences helped to advance partnerships with environmental institutions and strengthen CGIAR influence in One Health.

## **Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:**

- <https://tinyurl.com/yhovh3sk>

## **Part II: CGIAR system level reporting**

**Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies :** No

**Stage of maturity of change reported:** Stage 1

**Links to the Strategic Results Framework:**

Sub-IDs:

- Enhanced institutional capacity of partner research organizations
- Reduced livestock and fish disease risks associated with intensification and climate change

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: No

Description of activity / study: The CGIAR SRF does not have any targets related to human health impacts.

**Geographic scope:**

- Global

Comments: <Not Defined>

**Key Contributors:**

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- A4NH - Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Contributing Flagships: <Not Defined>

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- UNEP / UN Environment - The United Nations Environment Programme

**CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:**

This OICR references a 2020 innovation reported by A4NH to CGIAR. This high-profile evidence-based assessment report on the risk of future zoonotic outbreaks, focuses specifically on the environmental side. The report, co-authored by ILRI and the United Nations Environment Program, provides policymakers with a better understanding of the context and nature of potential future zoonotic disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Innovations:**

- 2057 - Evidence-based assessment report outlining seven drivers of zoonotic disease outbreaks and 10 evidence-based recommendations for governments (<https://tinyurl.com/2obwhesg>)

### **Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:**

To achieve optimal health outcomes, a one health approach is required. Many one health efforts continue to be spear headed by the human and animal health sector within the CGIAR. However, the environmental sector in CGIAR is not prominent.

In July 2020, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) co-authored an evidence-based assessment report on the root causes of the emergence and spread of the novel coronavirus and other zoonoses diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans (1). This report focuses specifically on the environmental side of the zoonotic dimension of disease outbreaks during what is now known as the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Since then, UNEP has joined the Tripartite Alliance to set up a One Health High-Level Expert Council to collect, distribute and publicize reliable scientific information on the links between human, animal and environmental health (2). ILRI and UNEP have made a formal, bilateral agreement to jointly work on One Health and other development issues on livestock and environment\*. These new agreements can accelerate work that reduces risks from zoonotic diseases and also anti-microbial resistance (AMR).

CGIAR communications and outreach in 2020 had a central message: the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 and the threats it posed on health and socio-economic development across the world demonstrated the need for global trans-disciplinary partnerships to manage its spread. Examples of how these efforts provided opportunities for collaboration and assured development partners that CGIAR has reliable expertise to lead One Health programs are described below.

The formal launch of the One Health Centre in Africa, led by ILRI, has several renowned environmental professionals on its advisory committee, which will be leveraged to build stronger networks for the continent (3). The UNEP-ILRI report (1), various blogs developed have been used to inform stakeholder consultations and strategy meetings that helped to define investments which each sector could make on One Health. During the GLF one of the feedback received was that the participants would like to have more structured networking opportunities and knowledge sharing sessions. ILRI has called for a meeting (10th May 2021) that will involve selected environment institutions (including a representative from UNEP) and professionals to identify practical ways of integrating the environment more in One Health. ILRI scientists were invited by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) to address a high-level conference on how environmental conservation could incorporate more One Health approaches in their efforts.

## References cited:

1. United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute (2020). Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission. Nairobi, Kenya.  
<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and>
2. United Nations Environment Programme. UNEP joins three international organizations in expert panel to improve One Health. Published November 12, 2020, on  
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/unep-joins-three-international-organizations-expert-panel-improve-one-health>
3. International Livestock Research Institute. New One Health Centre in Africa joins global efforts to prevent future pandemics. Published November 3, 2020, on  
<https://news.ilri.org/2020/11/03/new-one-health-centre-in-africa-joins-global-efforts-to-prevent-future-global-pandemics/>.
4. Biodiversity 2020. A One Health approach for environmental, animal and human health. Published October, 28 2020, on  
<https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/biodiversity-2020/28-october-2020/a-one-health-a-approach-for-environmental-animal-and-human-health/>
5. Various blogs for the elaboration section  
\*<https://www.ilri.org/news/ilri-signs-mou-unep-collaborate-sustainable-livestock-and-environmental-development>  
<https://www.ilri.org/news/joint-un-cgiar-assessment-explains-how-animal-human-pandemics-covid-19-occur-and-how-prevent>,  
<https://www.ilri.org/news/one-health-key-sustainable-livestock%E2%80%94and-human-and-environment%E2%80%94health>  
<https://www.ilri.org/news/one-world-one-health-landscape-approach-preventing-and-mitigating-future-pandemics>) and video clips ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4lYn\\_-A\\_EI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4lYn_-A_EI),  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Qi0TvyGnns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Qi0TvyGnns))

**Quantification:** <Not Defined>

## Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

**Gender relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Youth relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**CapDev relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Climate Change relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Other cross-cutting dimensions:** NA

**Other cross-cutting dimensions description:** <Not Defined>

**Outcome Impact Case Report link:** [Study #4064](#)

## Contact person:

Bernard Bett, Senior Scientist, ILRI [b.bett@cgiar.org](mailto:b.bett@cgiar.org)