

Decades of emerging infectious disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance response in Vietnam: The role of One Health

Steven Lam ^a & Hung Nguyen-Viet ^b

^a Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Guelph, Canada
^b International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya



ONTARIO
VETERINARY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION MEDICINE



Background

Since facing outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome and avian influenza A in 2003, Vietnam has increasingly applied a One Health approach to address emerging infectious diseases of animal origin. Here, we reflect on the challenges and opportunities of One Health in the context of zoonoses, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, drawing on a stocktake of One Health training, policy, and research in Vietnam.

We asked:

What are the achievements, constraints & opportunities of One Health training, research, and policy in Vietnam?

Methods

To answer this question, we conducted a stocktake of One Health efforts in Vietnam.



Results



Over the past two decades, many emerging infectious diseases impacted Vietnam, including SARS (2003), H5N1 (2003), pandemic influenza A (H1N1) (2009), Zika virus (2016), and COVID-19 (2020). Concurrently, diseases posing risks to both humans and animals such as *Streptococcus suis* (2003) and avian influenza A (H5N6) (2013) created substantial social and economic impacts. Prior to notable human and disease outbreaks in 2003, public health and veterinary sectors have already been working together to control zoonotic diseases in Vietnam such as rabies.

Discussion

Vietnam's One Health efforts were supported by existing structures (formal policies, informal policies, partnership frameworks), which were products of several important starting conditions (e.g. growing awareness of One Health, history of inter-sectoral collaboration to address emerging infectious diseases). Although structural elements are largely in place, many challenges remain for One Health implementation in Vietnam (e.g. deeper coordination with the environmental sector).

Conclusion

The widespread impact of COVID-19 is a reminder of the need to work collectively across human health, animal health, and environmental sectors, not just during a crisis but after the crises are over. As the Vietnam case demonstrates, it is precisely in 'peace time' that coordinating mechanisms are strengthened through partnerships and joint actions.

For the full paper, see: Nguyen-Viet H, Lam S, Nguyen-Mai H, Trang DT, Phuong VT, Tuan NDA, Tan DQ, Thuy NT, Linh DT, Pham-Duc P. 2022. [Decades of emerging infectious disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance response in Vietnam](#). *One Health*, 14, 100361.