



Federal Republic of Somalia



Visioning Workshop for Updating the One Health Strategic Plan (2025–2029)

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Workshop Report

Jazeera Palace Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia
18-19th February 2025

Compiled by: COHESA Multiplier team, Somalia





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Organisers

The visioning workshop was organized under the leadership of the Chair of the National One Health Technical Working Group, who was responsible for overall planning and stakeholder identification from relevant government institutions. He was supported by the One Health Unit team, in collaboration with the Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA) project and relevant line ministries, led by the Ministry of Health, Federal Government of Somalia, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Table 1 shows the list of organizers from the Federal Government of Somalia and COHESA Multiplier institutions in Somalia (Amoud University and Somali National University):

Table 1: Visioning workshop organizing team

Name	Role	Institution	Affiliation
Dr Abdinasir Yusuf Osman	Facilitation Team Lead, Chair of National One Health Task Force	Ministry of Health	Federal Government of Somalia (FGS)
Dr Kamal Rage Ali	Head of One Health Unit	Ministry of Health	Federal Government of Somalia
Dr Mohamed Abdirahman Mohamed	Zoonotic Disease Focal Point	One Health Unit	Federal Government of Somalia
Dr Amir Osman	One Health Coordinator	One Health Unit, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range	Federal Government of Somalia
Dr Mohamed Erkole	One Health Unit	Ministry of Environment and Climate	Federal Government of Somalia
Hussein Iman	One Health Unit	Ministry of Agriculture and Climate Change	Federal Government of Somalia
Yusuf Hareed	Lead COHESA Multiplier	Amoud University	Academia
Shafii Abdullahi	Focal person COHESA Partner	Somali National University	Academia

Target Beneficiaries

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Livestock Forestry and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment, Somali Bureau Standards, Central Bank, Supreme Court, Amoud University, Somali National University, University of Peace, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Medical Corps (IMC), Veterinary Sans Frontières (VSF) Suisse, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

Participants

A total of 30 participants (including 20 males and 10 females) attended the workshop.

Aim and objectives

The overarching aim of the workshop was to catalyse a transformative advancement of the One Health agenda in Somalia by critically appraising current scenario, rigorously evaluating the draft strategic plan, and forging a unified, multi-sectoral consensus. The specific objectives were as follows:

Assessment of Progress:

To present and critically evaluate the achievements and challenges encountered in the integration of human, animal, and environmental health sectors, thereby delineating key milestones and identifying impediments to effective One Health implementation.

Rigorous SWOT Analysis:

To undertake a systematic SWOT analysis of the existing National One Health Strategic Plan. This process aimed to highlight inherent strengths, pinpoint critical weaknesses, uncover potential opportunities, and delineate imminent threats—informing targeted, evidence-based enhancements.

Pre-validation of the Draft Plan:

To engage stakeholders through structured group work and roundtable discussions, facilitating a thorough pre-validation of the draft One Health Strategic Plan. This collaborative effort was designed to refine the plan by addressing identified gaps and ensuring that all critical perspectives were integrated prior to finalization.

Multi-Sectoral Consensus Building:

To foster robust alignment among a diverse array of stakeholders—including government ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) and international partners (e.g., World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations). This objective was instrumental in cultivating a unified and actionable framework for the strategic implementation of One Health.

Finalisation of strategic activities:

To review and consolidate the proposed activities across the five strategic pillars—namely, institutionalisation, integrated surveillance, workforce development, applied research and innovation, and advocacy and communication—ensuring that the strategic plan is both comprehensive and congruent with national and regional health priorities.

This integrative approach underscores the commitment to a robust, evidence-based, and collaborative framework that is essential for advancing One Health in Somalia.

Main activities, Procedures, and achievements

Event Overview

The Ministry of Health, Somalia, in collaboration with COHESA), organized a two-day Visioning workshop at Jazeera Hotel, Mogadishu, from 18th to 19th February 2025. The workshop aimed to lay the groundwork for updating and developing the National One Health Strategic Plan (2025-2029), focusing on key strategic pillars, conducting a SWOT analysis, and defining the vision, mission, and goals of the plan. The event involved participants from several government ministries, local and international organizations, and academic institutions.

Key Participants: The participants of the workshop were a diverse range of stakeholders, including:

1. Government Ministries:
 - Ministry of Health and human services
 - Ministry of Livestock, Forestry, and Range
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
 - Ministry of Environment
2. International and Local Organizations:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Medical Corps (IMC)
 - Veterinary Sans Frontieres Swiss (VSF SWISS)
 - Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA)
3. Academic institutions:
 - Somali National University
 - Amoud University
 - University of Peace- Somalia

This diverse group helped facilitate a robust discussion on the One Health approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

Strategic Pillars

During the workshop, the following five key strategic pillars were discussed to guide the development of the One Health Strategic Plan:

1. **Pillar 1: Institutionalize One Health for sustainable multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration –**

This first pillar emphasized the importance of institutionalizing the One Health approach to ensure effective coordination among sectors. This would involve setting up strong governance structures at the national and regional levels, establishing clear roles and responsibilities for different ministries and stakeholders, and fostering collaboration across all levels of government and civil society. The goal is to integrate human, animal, and environmental health policies and activities within national frameworks to create a unified health system.

2. **Pillar 2: Strengthen integrated surveillance and rapid response across One Health domains –**

This pillar focused on enhancing surveillance systems across the One Health domains (human, animal, and environmental health). Participants agreed that building integrated surveillance networks and strengthening early-warning systems are critical to addressing emerging health threats, especially zoonotic diseases. The discussion centred on creating mechanisms for rapid response, data-sharing across sectors, and improving disease monitoring at local, national, and international levels to prevent and control outbreaks effectively.

3. **Pillar 3: Build One Health workforce to strengthen Health Systems**

The third pillar highlighted the need to build and strengthen the One Health workforce through training and capacity-building initiatives. A well-equipped workforce—comprising professionals from human health, animal health, environmental science, and other relevant fields—is essential to the success of the One Health approach. Participants discussed the importance of multi-disciplinary education and specialized training programs to prepare individuals for working in integrated teams and strengthening national health systems.

4. **Pillar 4: Advance Applied Research and Innovation for evidence-based One Health policy and action -**

The fourth pillar underscored the importance of applied research to generate evidence-based policies and actions for One Health. There was consensus that research and innovation are essential to filling knowledge gaps, understanding complex health issues, and informing policy development. The pillar calls for promoting collaborative research across sectors and institutions, investing in technological innovations, and developing data-driven approaches for policymaking.

5. **Pillar 5: Strengthen Advocacy and Communication for One Health Awareness and Action -**

The fifth pillar emphasized the need for advocacy and communication to raise awareness about the One Health approach and engage communities in health-related initiatives. Effective communication strategies should be developed to raise public awareness and promote behavioral change regarding the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental

health. Advocacy efforts should target policymakers, local communities, and the private sector to garner support for One Health actions and policies.



Participants during the Visioning workshop (photo credit: Communications office- Ministry of Health, Somalia)

SWOT Analysis

During the workshop, participants conducted a SWOT analysis to evaluate the status of One Health integration in Somalia:

Strengths ○ Growing recognition of One Health among stakeholders. ○ Strong international support and collaboration from organizations such as WHO, FAO, and VSF SWISS. ○ Commitment from government ministries to integrate health sectors.	Weaknesses ○ Limited resources and infrastructure for integrated health systems. ○ Weak coordination mechanisms among sectors. ○ Insufficient data collection and surveillance systems.
Opportunities ○ Rising interest in climate change and its impact on health. ○ Opportunities for policy reform to integrate One Health principles. ○ Potential for expanding international partnerships and funding.	Threats ○ Political instability and security challenges. ○ Lack of public awareness regarding the One Health approach. ○ Risk of emerging diseases due to inadequate early-warning systems.

Formulation of Vision, Mission, and Goals

At the end of the workshop, the participants worked together to define the vision, mission, and goals for the One Health Strategic Plan:

- **Vision:** A healthy Somalia where human, animal, and environmental health are interconnected and addressed through integrated, sustainable approaches, promoting well-being for all.
- **Mission:** To strengthen the national health system by integrating human, animal, and environmental health sectors, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and ensuring the sustainability of health interventions.

Goals:

1. Institutionalize One Health and foster multi-sectoral collaboration.
2. Strengthen integrated surveillance and enhance rapid response mechanisms.
3. Build a skilled One Health workforce and integrate capacity-building initiatives.
4. Advance research and innovation to inform evidence-based policies and actions.
5. Enhance advocacy and communication efforts to raise awareness and mobilize action for One Health.

Key Takeaways

1. Collaboration is essential: Strong institutional frameworks and improved coordination between sectors (human health, animal health, environment) are critical to the success of the One Health approach.
2. Capacity building: The need for a trained and well-equipped workforce was emphasized. Ongoing education, training, and professional development are necessary to ensure a competent and integrated workforce.
3. Research and Data: Applied research and evidence-based policymaking will play a crucial role in shaping the national strategy and addressing emerging health challenges.
4. Community and Public Engagement: Advocacy and communication efforts should focus on public awareness and the active involvement of local communities in One Health initiatives.



Participants during the Visioning workshop (photo credit: Communications office- Ministry of Health, Somalia)

Next Steps and Recommendations

1. Finalize the National One Health Strategic Plan (2025-2029) based on the discussions and inputs from the workshop.
2. Conduct a validation workshop on April 14-15 to finalize the National One Health Strategic Plan (2025-2029), incorporating discussions and inputs from the workshop.
3. Set up a One Health Task Force to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the strategic plan.
4. Develop a comprehensive funding strategy to support the operationalization of the plan.
5. Launch advocacy campaigns targeting policymakers, communities, and key stakeholders to build broader support for the One Health approach.

Conclusion

The two-day Visioning workshop was a vital step in shaping Somalia's National One Health Strategic Plan (2025-2029). The discussions around the five strategic pillars demonstrated a clear commitment to creating an integrated health system. The active involvement of key stakeholders, including government ministries, international partners, and academia, reinforced the collaborative nature of the One Health approach. Going forward, it will be essential to focus on strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing surveillance systems, and building a skilled workforce to achieve the strategic goals outlined for the next five years.

Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda & Schedule

Day 1		
Time	Description	Who
09:00-09:30	Registration.	All
<i>Session 1: OHU & COHESA -setting the scene</i>		
09:30-09:45	Workshop aim presentation	Dr Kamal Rage Ali
9:45-10:15	Welcome Remarks (3 min each).	Representative of MoH Representative of MoLFR Representative of MoAI Representative of MoECC Representative of WHO Representative of FAO
10:15-10:45	Coffee break and group photo	All
10:45-11:15	Progress and achievements of One Health implementation in Somalia	Dr Aamir Muse Osman
11:15-11:30	COHESA Presentation	Dr. Shafii Abdullahi
11:30-11:45	Progress and Achievements of One Health Strategic planning	Dr Mohamed Amin
11:45-12:00	Q&A	
<i>Session 2: SWOT analysis</i>		
12:00-12:30	Present SWOT analysis results and discuss	All
12:30 – 01:45	Prayer and Lunch Time	
<i>Session 3: Pre-Validation of the Draft One Health Strategic Plan</i>		
01:45-02:00	Present the prepared draft activities of the One Health Strategic Plan.	Dr Amir Muse Osman
02:00-03:00	Group Work: Round Tables – Pillar One Review the prepared draft activities of the One Health Strategic Plan. Identify any critical gaps or necessary adjustments prior to finalization.	All
03:00 – 03:30	Group Presentation	All

Day 2		
Pre-Validation of the Draft One Health Strategic Plan		
09:00-09:15	Registration	
09:15-09:30	Recap day 1	Dr Mohamed Amin
09:30-10:15	Group Work: Round Tables – Pillar Two Review the prepared draft activities of the One Health Strategic Plan. Identify any critical gaps or necessary adjustments prior to finalization.	All
10:15-10:30	Group Presentation	All
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	Group Work: Round Tables – Pillar Three Review the prepared draft activities of the One Health Strategic Plan. Identify any critical gaps or necessary adjustments prior to finalization.	All
12:00-12:30	Group Presentation	All
12:30-01:45	Prayer and Lunch Time	
01:45-03:00	Group Work: Round Tables – Pillar Four and Five Review the prepared draft activities of the One Health Strategic Plan. Identify any critical gaps or necessary adjustments prior to finalization.	All
03:00-03:30	Group Presentation	All
03:30-04:00	Closing remark	

Key Notes:

Group Work: Participants will be divided into small groups to ensure active participation and diverse input.

SWOT Analysis: A structured approach to identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to the One Health Strategic Plan.

Consensus Building: All sessions will focus on achieving stakeholder alignment and actionable outcomes.

Annex2: List of Participants for the Visioning Workshop

S/N	Name	Gender	Institution
1	Kamaludin Rage Ali	Male	Head of One Health Unit, Ministry of Health
2	Mohamed Abdelrahman Mohamed	Male	Zoonotic Disease Focal Point, Ministry of Health
3	Aamir Musse Osman	Male	One Health coordinator
4	Sahra Isse Mohamed	Female	Head of Surveillance, Ministry of Health
5	Mohamed Abdullahi Abdulle	Male	Director of Human Resources for Health and Training FMOH
6	Hussein Moalim Iman	Male	Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
7	Khadar Yasin Mohamed	Male	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation FGS
8	Hoodo Omer Iidle	Female	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation FGS
9	Abdulkadir Hussein walal Ibrahim	Male	Head of Section of Land Registration Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation FGS
10	Abdinasir Hussein Mahamud	Male	Ministry of Environment FGS
11	Aisha Muhudin Abubakar	Female	Ministry of Environment FGS
12	Zahra Ahmed Dahir	Female	Ministry of Environment FGS
13	Osman Ahmed Mohamed	Male	Ministry of Livestock FGS
14	Amina Hussien Dhuhollow	Female	Head of Lab, Ministry of Livestock FGS
15	Naima Mohamud Mohamed	Female	Ministry of Livestock
16	Yusuf Abdirizak Hassan	Male	Ministry of Livestock
17	Abdifatah Dirie Ahmed	Male	BMGF
18	Bile Abdi Mohamed	Male	Ministry of Health FGS
19	Shafii Abdullahi Mohamed	Male	Somali National University
20	Abdirizak Mohamed Ahmed	Male	UPEACE Somalia
21	Hamse Abdikarim Omer	Male	Amoud University online Campus, Mogadishu
22	Ibrahim Kala Dido	Male	VSF SUISSE
23	Hassan Mursal Ahmed	Male	Medical Coordinator, International Medical Corps
24	Abbas Jimale	Male	Livestock Sector Coordinator, FAO
25	Hani Abdullahi Mohamud	Female	CBS
26	Naima Said Ali	Female	MS
27	Abdirahman Aden Mohamed	Male	SMA
28	Mohamed Aden Hirsi	Male	SOBS, Ministry of Commerce
29	Juweria Abdulkadir Mohamed	Female	SNU
30	Deka Ahmed Said	Female	SNU

