

OneHealth-Ecohealth in Vietnam

January 2013



IN FOCUS

OneHealth-EcoHealth in Vietnam (OHECO)



One Health and Ecohealth have been the key approaches not only in controlling diseases and bringing resources from human and animal health sectors but also in mobilizing the participation of many stakeholders from varied sectors. Currently, communication and exchange between One Health and Ecohealth activities in Vietnam are not occurring frequently. Therefore, we believe that gathering all forces from all of the programs, projects, and initiatives of One Health and Ecohealth in the country would have a greater impact in improving human, animal, environmental health. In this view, we proposed a briefing on One Health-Ecohealth in Vietnam (OHECO).

One Health is defined as an interdisciplinary collaborative effort to work locally, nationally, and globally to address critical challenges and attain optimal health for people, domestic animals, wildlife, and our environment. Ecosystem approaches to health, or Ecohealth, acknowledge the complex, systemic nature of public health and

The OHECO is a platform for networks to share information on One Health and Ecohealth activities in Vietnam and to develop strategies to improve One Health and Ecohealth operations in Vietnam through networking, training, research, and advocacy. This initiative has been proposed and realized by a core partner group working on Ecohealth and One Health from universities, research institutes, intergovernmental organization, ministries, and international organizations in Vietnam, especially the Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI) in South East Asia project (funded by International Development Research Center - IDRC) and Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN, funded by United States for Agency for International Development - USAID).

One of the main activities of the OHECO is to publish a quarterly brief that will consist of a focus section, activity highlights, and upcoming events related to One Health and Ecohealth in Vietnam. The first issue will try to map out current activities on One Health and Ecohealth in Vietnam although it is not comprehensive. It also provides information on upcoming events of One Health and Ecohealth.

environmental issues and the inadequacy of conventional methodologies for dealing with them.

Both public health and environmental issues are based on an integrated and transdisciplinary approach to address complex issues of human, animal and environmental health (in the case of One Health) and ecosystem and health in a socio-ecological system (in the case of Ecohealth) and are led by veterinarians, epidemiologists, and doctors. Yet, each has a different origin: "One Medicine" for One Health and "ecosystem approach" for Ecohealth. One Health tends to be "top-down" and attracts much attention from large organisations; whereas "Ecohealth" uses primarily a "bottom-up" approach and is mainly promoted by and for communities.

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



1 Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN)

Established on October 22, 2011 in NhaTrang, KhanhHoa province, the network consists of 17 faculty/university members from all around the country. In particular, the main VOHUN university members are from Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH); Hanoi Medical University (HMU); Hanoi University of Agriculture (HUA); and Can Tho University (CTU). The main objective of VOHUN is to develop the One Health approach through training activities and research in the universities and to build a generation of new lecturers and researchers having a full range of knowledge and skills in practicing "One Health".

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3 CERC: Animals, Water, and Public Health in Vietnam

This research is implemented jointly by the University of Prince Edward Island and the University of Calgary (Canada) and in collaboration with the CENPHER, HSPH and the Hanoi Water Resources University (WRU). The objectives of this research are to: 1) determine the level of coliform bacteria in aquaculture ponds associated with small scale livestock production in Vietnam; 2) determine the association of fecal coliforms with the presence of fish and livestock; and 3) record farmers' perceptions of the cleanliness of the water and risk factors of diseases to animals and humans from water. This research is funded, in part, by the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program.

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2 BECA: Building Ecohealth Capacity in Asia

This is a 3-year project implemented by Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB) and funded by the IDRC and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The objectives of the project are to: 1) identify methodologies for developing and measuring impact of sustainable ecosystem approaches to health; 2) promote research and application of transboundary sustainable ecosystem approaches to health 3) promote and facilitate regional networking and collaboration between high-level researchers, decision makers, and community actors in Ecohealth research and EID prevention and control in the region; and 4) provide a process-oriented approach to evaluation and monitoring of adaptive and effective learning and teaching tools for building ecosystem approaches to health.

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4 Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI): Advancing Ecohealth in Southeast Asia

This is a 5-year program, funded by IDRC and implemented in 4 countries in Southeast Asia namely Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan province of China. In Vietnam, the project is being implemented in Hanam province with the research study titled "Using Ecohealth Approach for a Better Management of Livestock and Human Waste in Hanam Province, Vietnam", focusing on the impacts of livestock and human waste on health, environment and socio-economics. The project aims to develop interventions to better manage livestock and human waste, and thus, improve the health and well-being of people and the environment using an Ecohealth approach.

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5 EcoEID: Application of an Eco-Bio-Social Approach To Emerging Infectious Diseases in Southeast Asian Global Outreach Hot Spots

In 2012, the IDRC has supported a project to apply the eco-bio-social approach to develop comprehensive, community-based, inter-sectoral strategies to empower vulnerable human populations in global outreach hotspots in six Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam), in order to reduce risks of emerging vector-borne and zoonotic diseases.

In 2013, the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and Hai Phong Preventive Medicine Centre will complete the baseline survey and apply a community-based control program to protect international and domestic tourists and local people far from dengue in Cat Ba Island.

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6 Reducing Disease Risks and Improving Food Safety in Smallholder Pig Value Chains in Vietnam

The project is also known as PigRisk, is funded by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) through the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and implemented in Hung Yen and Nghe An province. Core research partners are the CENPHER, HSPH and the HUA. In 5 years (2012 to 2017), the project aims to enhance the livelihood of rural and urban poor in Vietnam by improving opportunities and incomes from pig value chains as a result of reducing risks associated with pork-borne diseases.

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7 Eco-health Assessment on Poultry Production Clusters (PPCs) for the Livelihood Improvement of Small Producers

The Center for Agricultural Policy – Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development (CAP-IPSARD), under the Ministry of Agriculture (MARD), along with the China Agricultural University, the Indonesian Center for Agriculture Socio-Economic and Policy Studies, and the Mahasarakham University of Thailand, has implemented a project on Eco-health Assessment on poultry Production Clusters (PPCs) for the Livelihood Improvement of Small Producers with support from the IDRC. The project's objective is to assess the multidisciplinary impacts of PPCs and identify policy interventions to improve the small producers' livelihoods in PPCs by using an Ecohealth approach to prevent emerging infectious diseases.

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8 Asia Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (APEIR)-Vietnam Network

The APEIR is a research partnership, composed of researchers, practitioners and senior government officials from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. In Vietnam, several partner institutions representing a range of expertise and sectors are participating in APEIR research projects including the Eco-Health Assessment on Poultry Production Clusters for the Livelihood Improvement of Small Producers (ECO-EID), the Model of Hygienic Small Scale Poultry Slaughter House for Asian Partnership Countries (EcoZD), as well as two proposals namely 'An Ecohealth Approach to Develop a Strategy for the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials to Control Antimicrobial Resistance in Human, Animal, and Environmental Health in Asia', and the Surveillance of Emerging Infectious Diseases in Wildlife Trade to Increase Awareness for Zoonoses Prevention and Wildlife Conservation.

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9 The study of hygienic practices of small-scale poultry slaughter house in Asian partnership Countries

This project was funded by the ILRI-EcoZD program. This project aims to (i) elucidate the status of small-scale poultry slaughterhouses [and] [in terms of] their effects on the ecology and health in the community and (ii) sustainably enhance hygiene and [operation] of the slaughterhouses. The National Institute of Veterinary Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development manages the project in Vietnam. Other Vietnamese institutions involved in this project include the sub-department of Animal Health of Hanoi and Hanoi School of Public Health.

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10 PREVENT: Global Avian Influenza and Zoonotic Behavior Change and Communication Support Activity

PREVENT works to reduce the risks that zoonoses - specifically viruses that may be emerging pandemic threats - can pose to public health. It takes a One Health approach, drawing on a wide range of fields, including epidemiology, social and behavioral science, and communication as well as the expertise of animal health and environmental specialists. Implemented by FHI 360, PREVENT is one of four complementary projects launched in 2009 by the USAID to pre-empt or combat emerging pandemic threats (EPT). In 2012 PREVENT also began receiving funding from AusAID for activities in Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

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11 Zoonotic research in the South of Vietnam

A multidisciplinary collaboration among Department of Animal Health (DAH), Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City (PIHCMC) and Nong Lam University (NLU) was formed to study zoonoses in southern Vietnam using an Ecohealth approach. A retrospective study was conducted in BinhPhuoc and Tien Giang provinces, focussing on six specific zoonoses. Commune level data from 2008-2011 was analysed using case reports from the annual surveillance data of DAH, IPHCMC, and provincial animal and public health centers. The collaboration is part of EcoZD project funded by IDRC and led by the ILRI.

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12 The Partnership on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza (PAHI)

The PAHI was established in November 2006 to facilitate the implementation of the Integrated National Operational Programme on Avian and Human Influenza (OPI) in 2006-2010 and the current Integrated National Operational Programme on Avian Influenza, Pandemic Preparedness and Emerging Infectious Diseases (AIPED) in 2011-2015. Its functions and duties include forum for information sharing and exchange, recommendations for National Steering Committee on Avian Influenza (NSCAI) and donors on ODA priorities and allocations, monitoring and evaluation of overall national programmes, support Vietnam to share information and experience with other countries in the region and in the world. The USAID funded project "Support to Knowledge Management and Policy Dialogue through the Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza" (KMP-API) supports operations of the Secretariat during 2012-2013.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

● ECOHEALTH COURSE MAY 2013

This course will be developed by an Ecohealth/One Health research team from the CENPHER, HSPH in collaboration with two Ecohealth/One Health Resource Centers from CMU and UGM and supported by EcoZD, FBIL, and HSPH. Further information on the course can be found at:
<http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/english/training/ecohealthcourse2013>

● ONE HEALTH COURSE IN CHIANGMAI, JANUARY – MARCH 2013

A short training course titled "Epidemiology, Economical and Ecological component for One Health training" by Professor Dr. Karl-Hans Zessin from Free University Berlin, Germany will be held in Chiang Mai in March 2013.

For more details please see link: <http://vphcap.vet.cmu.ac.th/>

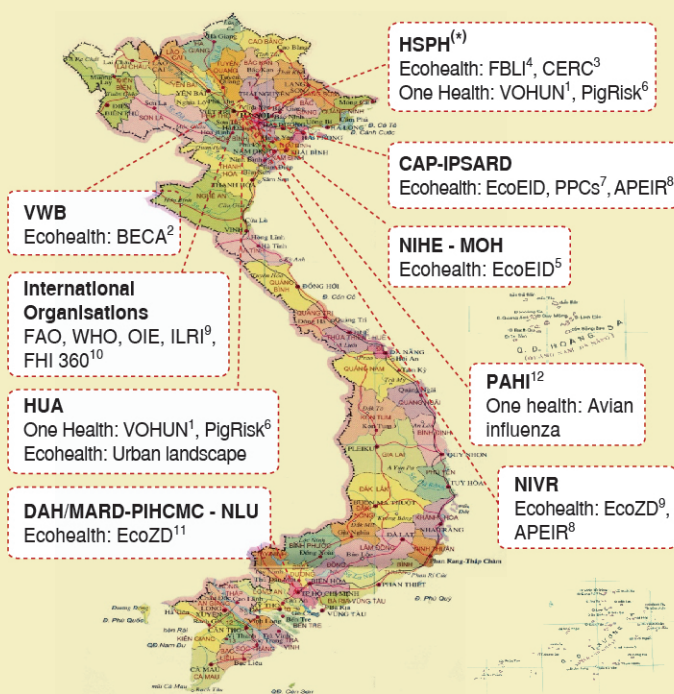
● VOHUN NEXT ACTIVITIES

The VOHUN network is in operation from January 2013, a number of activities such as the opening of website, newsletter will be launched. For more details please visit the following website:
<http://cenpher.hsph.edu.vn/english/vohun>

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One Health - Ecohealth Activity Map In Vietnam (Figure Heading)



(*) For a description of the activities of each organization, refer to the corresponding numbered heading in "Activity Highlights."