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Background

- One Health (OH) is advancing in Africa, supported by investments in technical capacity to tackle OH issues.
- Significant challenges persist, requiring conducive policies and national OH platforms for effective coordination and implementation.
- Success depends on bold conversations that will facilitate a shift from organizational to systems thinking.
- This shift is essential to break down sectoral silos, conflicting mandates, and budgetary competition.

Methods

- We used stakeholder net-mapping, a social network analysis tool, to address complex issues in multi-sectoral teams.
- Our study, conducted in 12 African countries, used gender-responsive sampling to recruit multidisciplinary participants familiar with each country's One Health (OH) landscape.
- Net-mapping process involved setting goals, identifying stakeholders, analyzing influence, and mapping relationships.
- Final analysis used visualization software to highlight key stakeholders and their relationships.
- Findings from 9 countries were validated with a larger group for accuracy and consensus.

Results

- We identified three emerging scenarios in the 9 countries: those working towards OH operationalization; those forming a national OH entity; and a third category working towards integration of issue-based technical working groups to form national OH entities for eventual institutionalization
- Collaboration, capacity building, coordination, advocacy and funding were common essential relationships identified, in-line with OHHLEP's elements for OH success
- Limiting relationships included competition, conflicting mandates and egos.
- Government ministries responsible for human health, animal health were on average the most influential actors to achieve institutionalization of OH
- Environment ministry key but not well captured in OH principles in most cases

Conclusion

Institutionalizing One Health (OH) is key to operationalization of the OH approach as it ensures effective coordination and accountability. Success factors for good OH governance include effective communication, conflict resolution, and negotiation skills. Advocacy for OH funding, regular multi-stakeholder forums, and strong management skills are crucial for actor integration. Strengthening leadership and empowering spaces for bold discussions will improve OH implementation, especially in government sectors.

Map of Africa showing countries where net-mapping was conducted

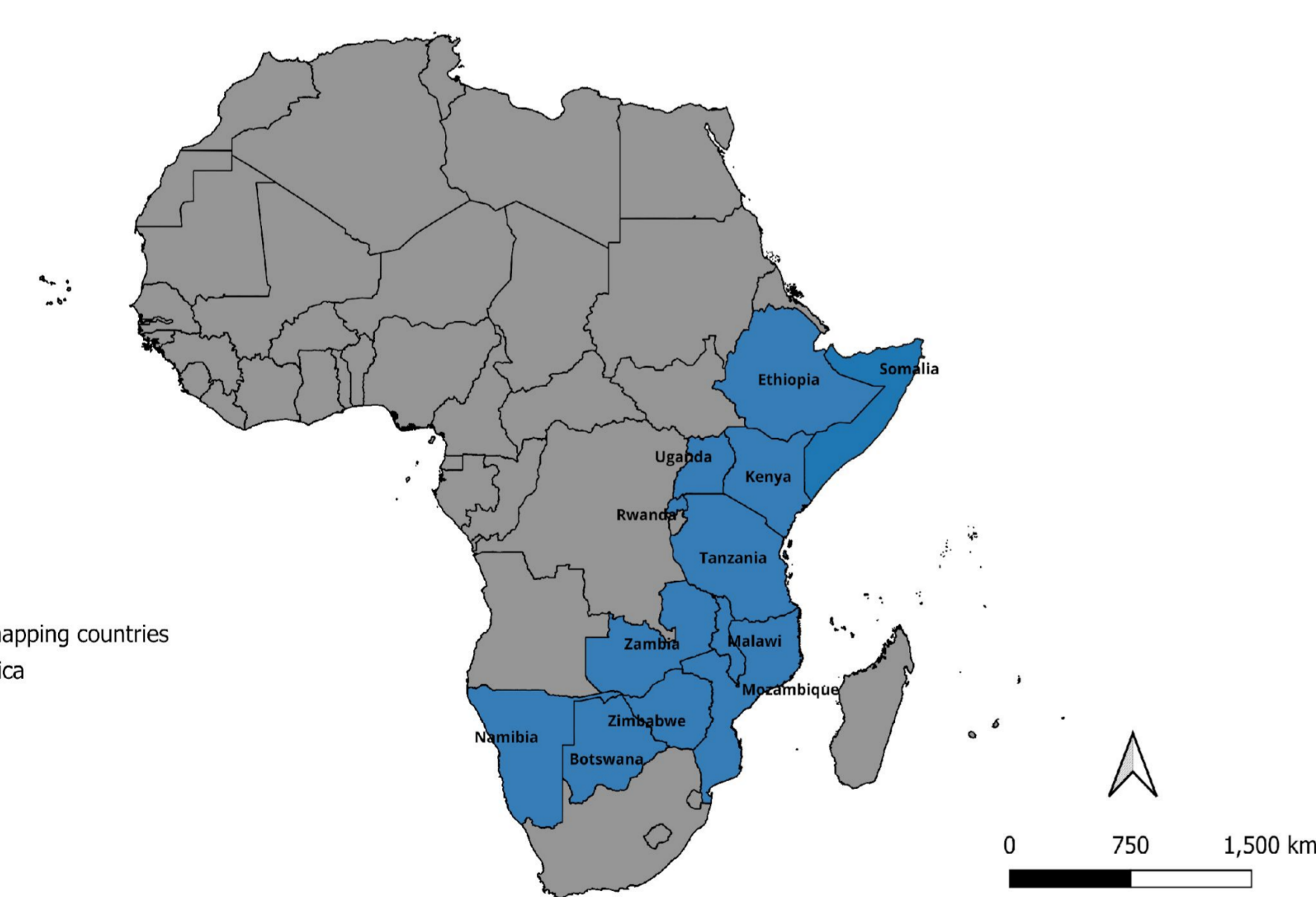


Fig. 1. Map of Africa showing countries where net mapping was conducted



Fig. 2. Photo showing net mapping Training of Trainers for the Southern (left) and East African (right) countries

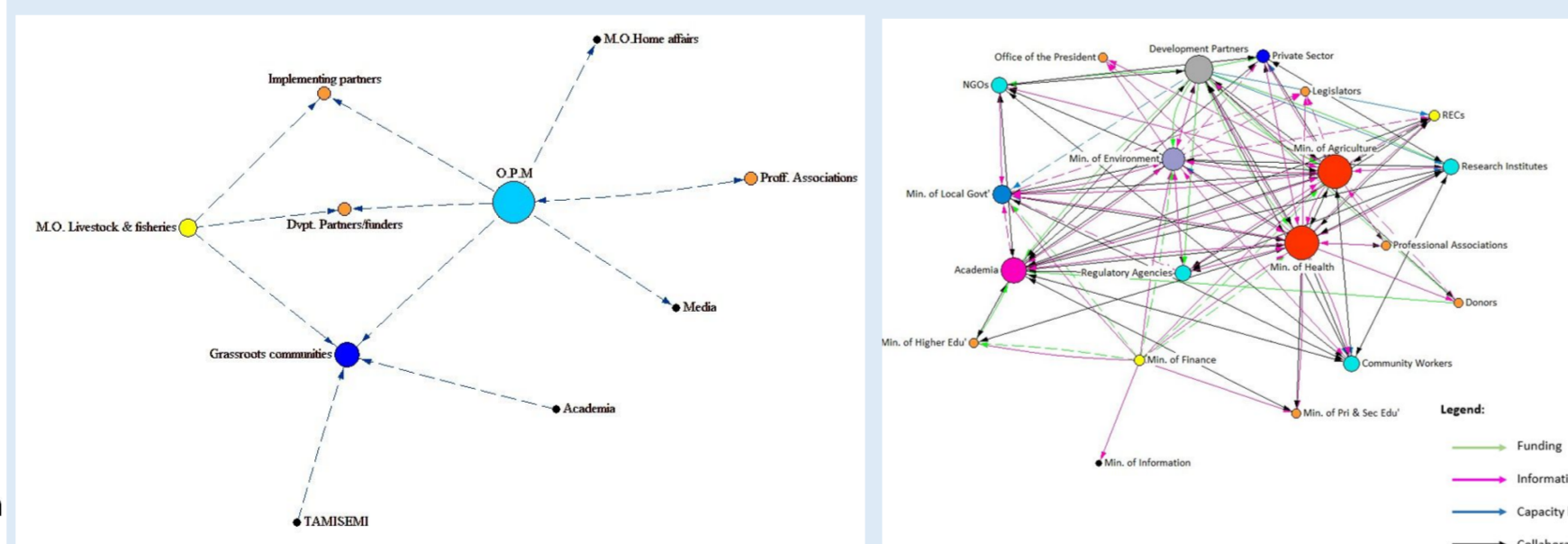


Fig. 3. Photo showing net maps for advocacy towards implementation of Tanzania's One Health strategic plan and development of an operational OH council for Zimbabwe

Resources

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Consortium



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