Operationalizing One Health in Ethiopia: Insights from the COHESA Project

Tadesse Y., Mor SM.[2,3], Richards S.[2], Knight-Jones T.[2,3] Mutua F.[2] and Kaba M.[1].
[1] School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
[2] International Livestock Research Institute
[3] University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

Yordanos Tadesse Kidanemariam
Addis Ababa University
+251910991570
yordanos.tadesse@aau.edu.et

Introduction / Background

Fig 1: Map of Ethiopia showing major landmarks, national parks, and cities. Source: Safari booking: Ethiopian Popular Routes

Ethiopia has established a National team of experts composed of human, animal, environment and wildlife sectors (NOHSC) to jointly respond to zoonotic diseases.

Nonetheless, this initiative remained ad hoc, with vivid limitation of operationalizing broader OH principles even for zoonotic disease in Ethiopia.

COHESA conducted a baseline assessment to determine the state of One Health operation and gaps in Ethiopia. Evidence was generated from representatives of institutions, individuals charged with OH and development partners with a stake on OH. The focus of data collection was :

- Governance structures
- Awareness levels
- Integration of OH principles in research and education

Results

- Data was generated from desktop review (published and grey), key informant interviews, and a focus group discussion with OH experts. Also, a net mapping Exerciseto identify key OH stakeholders and assess their influence within the One Health landscape was conducted.

- Key informants were selected purposively based on their OH expertise and ensuring stakeholders from different areas of technical expertise as well as from different sectors (government, academia, private sector).

- Qualitative data was coded using Open Code software, while desktop review findings were abstracted in line with the intended purpose. Data from different sources were triangulated and interpreted without missing the its original meanings.

Figure 2: One Health Stakeholders Consultation Workshop March 15-16, 2023

Figure 3:Ethiopian One Health stakeholder Net Map illustrating the key actors and their levels of influence

Results

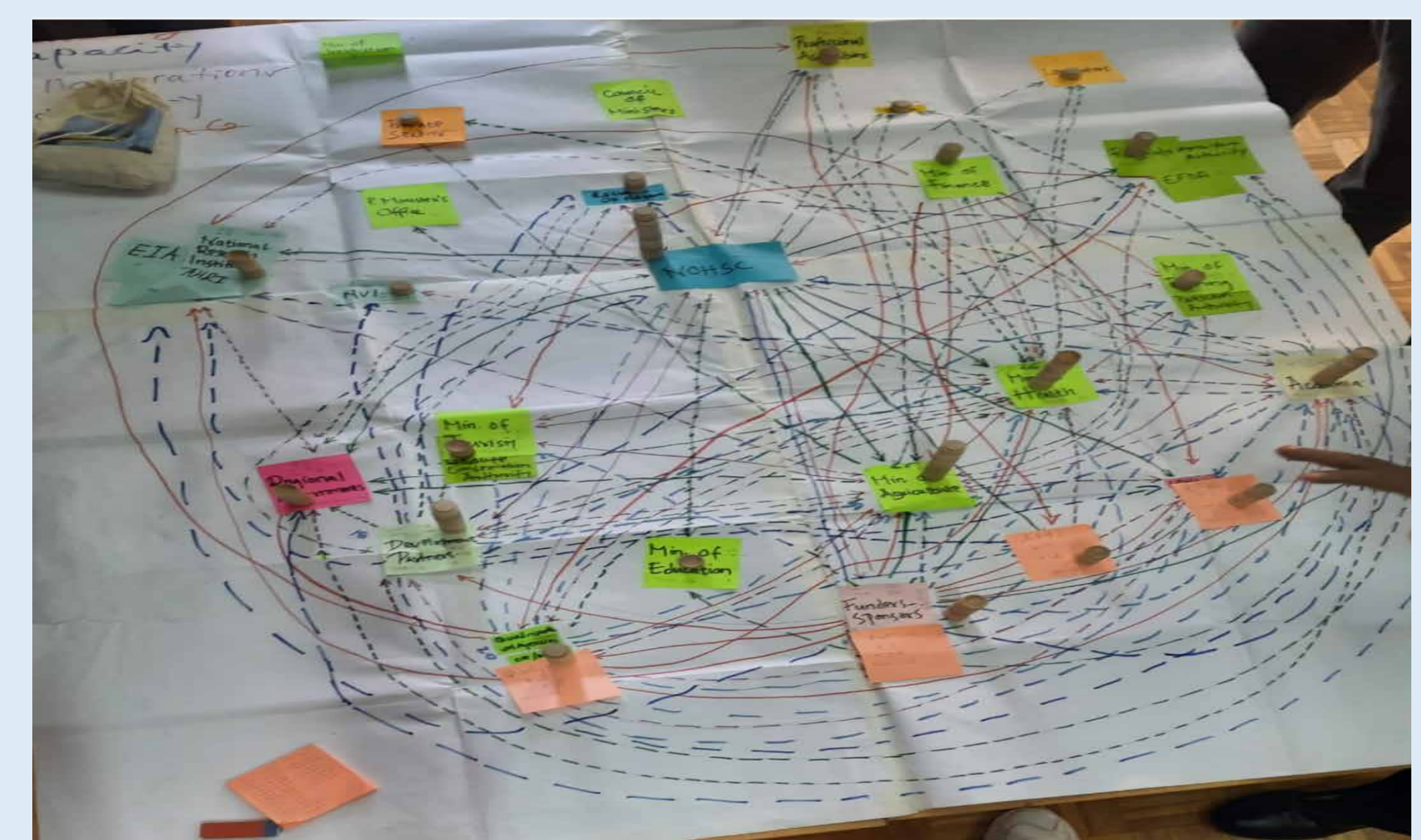| Governance	OH Program	Education and Research
Lack of institutionalized responsibility and accountability on OH Lack of government ownership of OH initiatives No budget allocation for OH initiatives No defined AWP for OH Membership did not include academic and research institutions No coordination mechanism of development partners Who has money guides the steering committee.	• Development of strategic plan targeting five prioritized zoonotic diseases(rabies, anthrax, brucellosis, echinococcosis, leptospirosis). • Established task teams for each of the zoonotic diseases • Established zoonotic focused OH team at community level supported by JHU-CCCP • "....OH is about getting out of comfort zones to work with the multisectoral and multi-disciplinary teams and collaborative spirit to join hands on an agenda of common interest..." FGD participant	• OH in education and research remains largely piecemeal based on individual projects • Limited cross-disciplinary collaboration; few initiatives to strengthen OH capacity of universities through AFROHUN and OSU initiatives.

Conclusion

Key Action Areas:
- All One Health stakeholders should be coordinated to support Ethiopia to take full ownership of OH programs Teaching and research institutions should integrate OH into their teaching, research and community services
- COHESA has played a pivotal role in advocating the institutionalization of OH governance in Ethiopia which may have contributed to the establishment of OH secretariat with a Regulation No. 529/2023 within EPHI/MoH.
- COHESA has successfully engaged universities, research institutions, and the education sector to integrate OH approaches and principles into with specific courses and research activities, with long term implications of instituting OH approaches and principles into university teaching, research and community service
- COHESA supports government to develop all inclusive plan and capacity to coordinate all stakeholders and institutions on OH

Scan for Ethiopia CABI case study