

## Background

### CHALLENGE AT HAND

- Over 260 infectious-disease epidemics, disasters and other potential public-health emergencies were identified in Africa between 2016 and 2018; Kenya has had all the top five disease epidemics: cholera, measles, viral haemorrhagic diseases (Rift Valley Fever), malaria and meningitis.
- Africa lost over 227 million years of healthy life and an annual productivity loss of over US\$800 billion across the continent due to infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics.
- One Health Approach has potential to offer solutions to these problems but it has a few challenges
  - Lack of human, material, and financial resources, coupled with inter-sectoral funding discrimination.
  - Little awareness and understanding of One Health concepts among policymakers and the public
  - Limited data on zoonoses and other One Health challenges, making it difficult to influence policy.
  - Cross-border implementation challenges due to differing policies and uneven financial support.
  - Weak coordination mechanisms at national and subnational levels.

### ABOUT COHESA

- Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA) project (2021 - 2025) in Kenya and 11 Eastern and Southern Africa countries seeks to offer solutions to some of these problems.
- COHESA-Kenya identified and prioritized One Health challenges of national and global concern and using One Health approach and initiated implementation of One Health solutions to the highest ranked challenges.
- COHESA-Kenya works with Kenya's Zoonotic Disease Unit (ZDU) to strengthen the implementing One Health at the sub-national (county) level through capacity building.

## Methods

### COHESA

- Held consultative key stakeholders' meetings to prioritize key national One Health challenges
- Called for proposals for transdisciplinary teams proposing implementation of solutions to address the key One Health challenges; proposal evaluated and ranked for most prominent solutions
- Five-day sandpit mentorship and proposal development workshop organized for the teams with the six best ranked proposals and selection for teams to implement the One health solution they had proposed.
- Contracting and implementation of the project and the One Health solution proposed is underway.
- Worked with the Zoonotic Disease Unit to facilitate formation of selected County One Health Units (COHU)
- Conducted webinars to train researchers and students on One Health Research, policy and practice.

## Conclusion

### CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

- The first in-person meeting held in November 2023 was attended by 18 experts who included 11 (61%) males and 7 (39%) females.
- Participants were drawn from academia, research institutions and the government through the Zoonotic Disease Unit (ZDU)
- The challenges prioritized as requiring One Health solutions were Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Zoonoses and Ecosystem health, which included food safety

### SAND PIT

- 18 transdisciplinary teams with 58 applicants submitted application, of which six teams were selected to attend a sandpit event.
- Majority of applications (48 of 58, 84%) of the applicants were from academic institutions, but teams diverse.
- Most of the proposals were AMR and zoonoses (Fig 1)
- Selected proposals were
  - Enhancing biosecurity measures for reduced broiler chicken morbidity and mortality in Kajiado County
  - Detection of Rickettsia species in ticks and development of a point-of-care diagnostic test (RicKit)

Percentage of areas of focus of proposals received

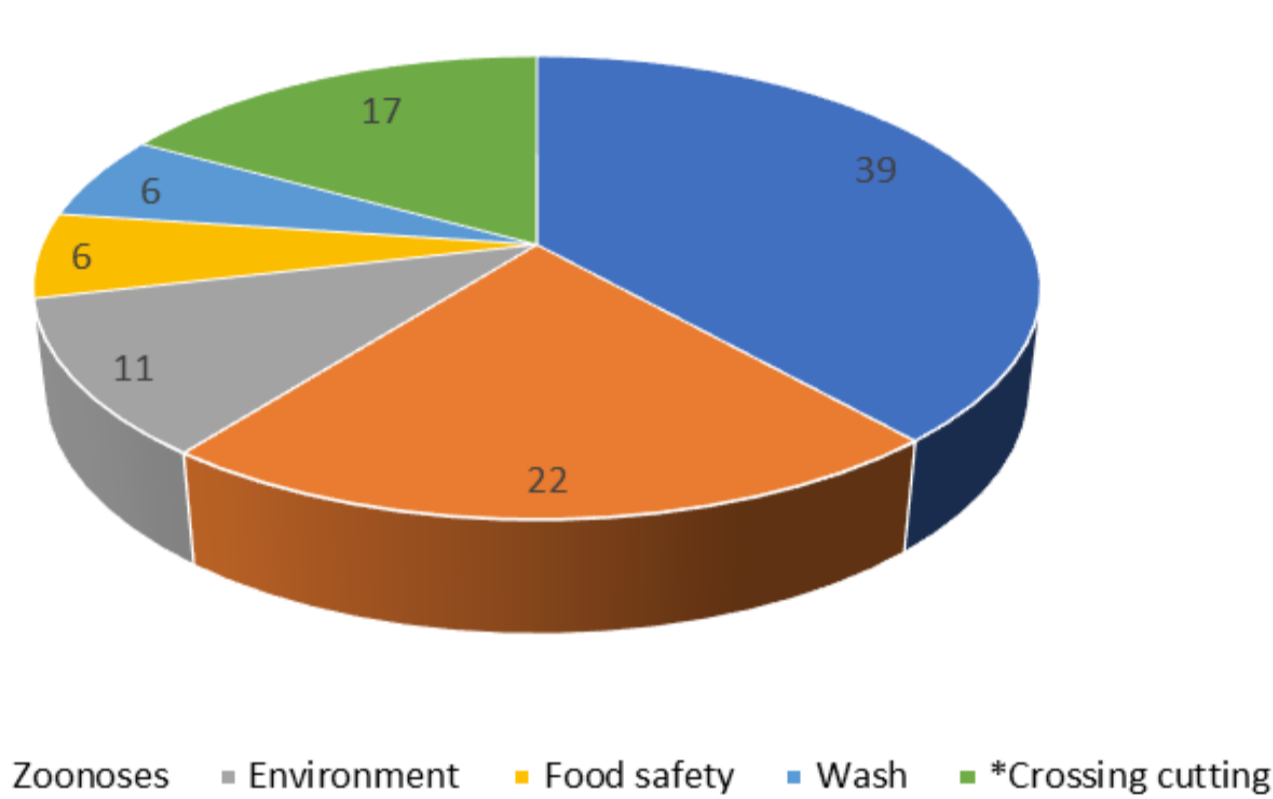


Figure 1. Main Focus areas of the proposals



COHESA-Kenya team with teams participating in the sandpit.

### COUNTY ONE HEALTH UNITS

- COHUS were inactive
- 100 professionals from five counties were trained
- Member of COHUs were officers from various departments in their counties: County disease surveillance, public health, environment, food surveillance, WASH coordinator and other relevant stakeholders
- Counties identified One Health challenges in their locales
- Each county generated a list of priority zoonotic diseases in their locations.
- 5 counties' COHUs drafted strategic plans.

### KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- COHESA Kenya webinar attended by as many as 150 at a go
- Attendees came from academia, media, researchers, industry practitioners in health, veterinary medicine, environment
- Four webinars on One Health related topic were organized

## Results

- The consultative approach effectively identified priority health challenges requiring One Health (OH) solutions and established multidisciplinary, multi-institutional teams to address them.
- One Health practitioners from different sectors collaborated to implement solutions within a six-month period.
- Capacity building on OH and the development of multidisciplinary, multi-institutional teams were incorporated, along with other skills to enhance the implementation of OH solutions.
- COHESA-Kenya collaborated with stakeholders to operationalize County OH Units in five counties
- One Health knowledge and skills were strengthened among university communities through webinars.

