



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

# **DATA AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROTOCOL FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE ONE HEALTH FRAMEWORK**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
AND FISHERIES (MAAIF),**

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH),**

**THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT  
(MWE),**

**THE UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY (UWA),**

**COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ANIMAL  
RESOURCES AND BIOSECURITY (COVAB),**

**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH (MAKSPH)**

**July 2022**



This publication is for:  
The National One Health Platform (NOHP) Kampala, Uganda



**July 2022**

## PREAMBLE

This protocol **recognizes** the previous instruments to implement One Health (OH) Approach in Uganda including;

- (1) The Memorandum of Understanding for operationalization of One Health in Uganda (November, 2016) and establishment of the National One Health Platform in Uganda
- (2) One Health Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 (January, 2018)
- (3) One Health Zoonotic Disease. Prioritization for multi-sectoral engagement, Kampala, Uganda (March, 2017), and
- (4) Uganda Joint External Evaluation Report(JEE) (June, 2017)

It **realizes** six key institutions for One Health information sharing in Uganda, namely;

- (1) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)(Party A)
- (2) Ministry of Health (MOH) (Party B)
- (3) Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) (Party C)
- (4) Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) (Party D)
- (5) College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB) (Party E)
- (6) Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) (Party Party F)

### **A number of stakeholders to collaborate on this OH informaion exchange protocol are listed.**

It **clarifies** that a harmonized one health information sharing system must be in place to foster rapid reporting, effective detection and rapid response to priority zoonotic diseases including anthrax, brucellosis, haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Rift Valley Fever, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever & Marburg), Trypanosomosis, Plague, Rabies and Zoonotic Influenza. By so doing, it also gives a clear structural linkage of the flow of information.

It **appreciates** that the different institutions have differing capabilities, mandates and interests in implementing One Health aspects but are willing to share outbreak data on ad hoc basis or periodically on monthly basis through the competent authority. In this case, the competent authority for Animal Disease Information is the Commissioner Animal Health at MAAIF, Director General Health Services at MOH and the Director Environmental Affairs at MWE.

**Emphasizes** the use of simplified interoperable mobile reporting application for improved reporting of animal diseases by the different parties. Reporting should be kept as simple as possible and each institution must have only one disease reporting and information sharing system.

**Underscores** the role of the community member's (who are part of the Community Based Disease Surveillance) private practitioners, voluntary village health teams and community animal health teams in syndromic disease surveillance. A strong feedback mechanism is a pre-requisite for sustainable disease reporting and information sharing, and for that matter; communities must be empowered to report diseases to respective authorities.

The **timelines** for the current protocol on OH information exchange is 5 years (July, 2022– July, 2027).

## Clause 1: Title

Data and Information Exchange Protocol for the Operationalization of the One Health Framework amongst the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB) and Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH).

## Clause 2: Parties for this protocol

- (1) Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- (2) Ministry of Health (MOH)
- (3) Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)
- (4) Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
- (5) College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB)
- (6) Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH)

## Clause 3: Data Sharing

Data sharing is intended to facilitate rapid multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary response to outbreaks, to facilitate timely and holistic actions by different players in One Health Disease management for all priority zoonotic diseases. Sharable information may include;

- Surveillance reports
- Laboratory results
- Research findings
- Disease containment/control measures
- End of outbreak reports
- Risk assessment & risk communication findings
- Early warning
- Suspected cases
- Confirmed outbreaks/case
- Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on passive and active surveillance cases

### When should data be shared?

- During emergencies
- During outbreaks
- Routinely based on standard procedures set by the National One Health Platform

### How should data be shared?

- Adopt electronic reporting systems and respect the chain of command in each Ministry/Institution. The reporting channel should be from the community level to district and central/ministry level. It is at the level of Competent Authority that information/reports should be shared.

### Levels of communication

- Sub-national-District Veterinary Officer (DVO) District Health Officer (DHO) District Environment Officer (DEO)- farmers/general public.
- National level across the collaborative sectors

## Clause 4: Information sharing code of practice

This protocol is designed to provide a framework for secure and confidential sharing of information between the partner organisations that contribute to one health in Uganda and ensuring disclosure is in line with statutory requirements. Information may be stored in many different formats such as, mental, physical, electronic, audio or visual.

This document recognizes that data sharing can occur at national (central), sub-national (City or District) and field (sub county levels). Mandatory reporting of diseases, syndromes or abnormalities to the competent authorities must continue as expected. Validated data and information can be shared through the Division of Veterinary Public Health in the Ministry of Health (in the One Health Coordination Office (OHCO)). OHCO can share data with other national authorities including the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the President. Institutional approval must be obtained for special data requirements outside normal reporting and sharing mandates.

By signing this protocol, all the parties agree that;

- 4.1 Voluntary OH data sharing, according to institutional mandates and obligations, must be facilitated as much as possible for rapid response to zoonotic disease outbreaks. This has to be coordinated by OHCO to avoid discrepancies. Normally, there is no cost attached.
- 4.2 Specific needs for One Health data or information can be shared responsibly as long as it is authorized by the Technical Lead of the institution. The names of all agencies in agreement are listed and can be added to as more agencies became involved. Organizations should, if possible, place copies of the list of partner organizations on their noticeboards or internet sites to reassure the public of their commitment to sharing responsibly.
- 4.3 Each institution develops and shares a standard outlining the agreed procedures for sharing information. It is this document which sets the standards for obtaining, recording, holding, using and sharing of information. It outlines the supporting legislation, guidelines and documents which govern information sharing between partner organizations. This protocol should show what information should be shared, how, under what circumstances and by whom. it should be tailored to individual partnerships. This document will require authorization of the participating partnership organizations. The standard should specifically mention the fair processing notices, consent leaflets, confidentiality statements and the level of privacy.

## Clause 5: Fairness and transparency

The PROTOCOL will promote ethics, fairness and transparency on the use of obtained information for development purposes only. It should not be used for legal, personal or any unfair practices beyond the institutional goals.

## Clause 6: Information Standards

The information issued by each of the parties should be signed off as a way of ensuring that it conforms to institutional quality standards. Confidential information may be issued (to non-parties ) under exceptional circumstances. This should remain confidential for the mutually agreed period.

## Clause 7: Commencement and Duration

This PROTOCOL shall be effective from the date it is signed by all the Parties and shall remain in force for five years.

## Clause 8: Scope

**8.1** The scope of this PROTOCOL will be limited to One Health information sharing on priority zoonotic diseases.

### Purpose

**8.2** The purpose of the PROTOCOL is to enhance collaboration among the institutions (MOH, MAAIF, UWA, MWE, COVAB and MakSPH) in managing zoonotic diseases, and to enable each institution to pursue activities and tasks as set out in Clause 6 of this PROTOCOL.

### Objectives

**8.3** The **objectives** of this PROTOCOL are to:

- (i) Formalize data and information exchange on zoonotic disease situation among partners
- (ii) Define data sharing modalities
- (iii) Empower the One Health Coordination Office as a One Stop Centre on zoonotic disease or causative agent and epidemiological data in animals, humans and environment
- (iv) Promote rapid and interoperable reporting or sharing of animal, human and environmental disease events
- (v) Strengthen the One Health Approach (OHA) in Uganda in order to achieve functional and sustainable collaboration within sectors responsible for the health of humans, domestic animals, wildlife and the environment.

## Clause 9: Obligations of the Parties under this PROTOCOL

### 9.1 Party A Obligations

Party A, as subject matter specialists in animal health shall have the following obligations, with the approval of the competent authority:-

1. Avail relevant data on animal diseases and species in the country whenever it is required by other parties.
2. Advise and participate in the monitoring, investigation and control of zoonotic diseases in animals in collaboration with other parties.
3. Provide regular information and risk maps on disease epidemiology indicating areas prone to particular zoonotic diseases in animals.
4. Issue public statements concerning status of animal health or jointly with other parties when required.
5. Provide regular information, communities attitudes and behaviors towards particular zoonotic diseases in animals.

## 9.2 Party B Obligations

Party B as subject matter specialists in human health shall have the following obligations with the approval of the competent authority:-

1. Avail relevant data on zoonotic diseases in humans in the country whenever it is required.
2. Advise and participate in monitoring, investigations and control of zoonotic diseases in humans.
3. Provide information on the areas prone to particular zoonotic diseases in humans.
4. Publish and share weekly epidemiological bulletin with other parties.
5. Issue public statements concerning human health or jointly with other parties when required.
6. Provide regular information and risk maps on communities' attitudes and behaviors towards to particular zoonotic diseases in humans.

## 9.3 Party C Obligations

Party C as subject matter specialists in environmental affairs shall have the following obligations with the approval of the competent authority:-

1. Provide information about ecosystems/habitats that provide critical ecosystem services in order to guide interventions during management of zoonotic diseases
2. Provide information on ecosystems/ habitats necessary to guide trade-offs, where the need to increase ecosystem services is outweighed by the frequency of occurrence of zoonotic diseases
3. Jointly provide statements on issues of environmental management and zoonotic diseases
4. Provide information on climate-related disasters aimed at guiding management of zoonotic diseases
5. Provide information on the quality of water supply relevant to management of zoonotic diseases
6. Publish and disseminate environment-related information that can be used to predict and prevent zoonotic diseases in collaboration with other Parties.
7. Provide regular information and risk maps on how communities' interact with the ecosystems/habitats.

## 9.4 Party D Obligations

Party D as subject matter specialists in wildlife animal health shall have the following obligations with the approval of the competent authority:-

1. Avail data on wildlife diseases and species at risk or affected in the country whenever it is required by other Parties
2. Provide information on the areas prone to particular zoonotic diseases in wildlife
3. Share information that relates to zoonotic diseases in wildlife and at the wildlife-livestock interface with the other parties.
4. Provide regular information and risk maps on how communities' interact with the ecosystems/habitats.

## **9.5 Party E and F Obligations**

Party E (COVAB), Party F (MakSPH) as subject matter specialists in Research and Academia shall have the following obligations with the approval of the competent authority:-

1. Avail scientific, research and educational data on livestock, wildlife and environmental diseases or syndromes and species at risk or affected in the country whenever it is required by other Parties.
2. Share information that relates to zoonotic diseases in livestock, human, wildlife and environmental diseases or syndromes with the other Parties.
3. Avail sociological research and educational data on people's responses to zoonoses in both animals and humans and species at risk or affected in the country.

## **Clause 10: Organization and Administration**

### **10.1 Administration**

The administration of the PROTOCOL shall be by the technical sector heads of each of the Parties (Directors, Commissioners or Designates).

## **Clause 11: Funding**

**11.1** The Parties shall ensure that activities which fall under this PROTOCOL are prioritized and considered for funding as part of routine institutional activities.

## **Clause 12: Publications and Intellectual Property Rights**

**12.2** The Parties shall have a joint right of ownership for all developed technologies, instruments or patents developed under this PROTOCOL. The ownership of these developments will be in adherence to the Intellectual Property Rights.

## **Clause 13: Ownership of Equipment and other Property**

**13.1** Equipment and other properties obtained under this PROTOCOL shall remain the property of the host Party to ensure continued use by that Party beyond the stipulated duration of the PROTOCOL.

## **Clause 14: Amicable Resolution of Disputes**

**14.1** If any disputes relating to the implementation or interpretation of this PROTOCOL arise, there shall be mutual consultations between the parties with the aim of resolving the dispute amicably for continuity and successful completion of the programme activities failure of which the PROTOCOL shall terminate.



## **Clause 15: Amendments to this PROTOCOL**

**15.1** Any amendments to this PROTOCOL shall be subject to approval in writing by all the Parties not before six months Prior to Signing of the Protocol?

## **Clause 16: Termination or renewal**

**16.1** Any Party may opt out of this PROTOCOL upon written submission of the intention to opt out, in a period of not less than six (6) months in advance. In such circumstances, the other remaining Parties therein shall review the PROTOCOL and decide accordingly.

**16.2** Six months before expiry, the Parties shall express in writing their desire to renew, adjust or terminate the PROTOCOL.

## **Clause 17: Consultations, Exchange and Sharing of Information**

**17.1** Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary to safeguard the confidentiality of certain information and documents, Parties agree to exchange information and documents as may be required. The Parties agree to convene regular meetings and consultations on matters of common interest with the view of strengthening implementation of mutually agreed activities.

## **Clause 18: Entry into Force**

**18.1** The agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, each acting through its duly authorized representative, have signed this agreement on this day 20th July, 2022

**A. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries**

Dr. Juliet Sentumbwe

Signature: 

Director Animal Resources

**B. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Health**

Dr. Henry Mwebesa

Signature: 

Director General of Health Services

**C. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment**

Mr. Collins Oloya

Signature: 

Director Environment Affairs

**D. For and on behalf of the Uganda Wildlife Authority**

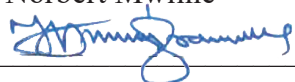

Mr. Sam Mwandha

Signature:  

Executive Director, Uganda Wildlife Authority

**E. For and on behalf of the College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity**

Professor Frank Norbert Mwiine

Signature:  


Principal, COVAB, Makerere University

**F. For and on behalf of Makerere University School of Public Health**


Professor Rhoda Wanyenze

Signature: 

Dean, Makerere University School of public health, Makerere University



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**THE NATIONAL ONE HEALTH PLATFORM (NOHP) UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF UGANDA WILD LIFE AUTHORITY  
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