

National Conclave on Uniting for One Health - Summary Report & Recommendations

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Executive Summary

The interconnected world creates a pathway for devastating pandemics to emerge. Ecological circumstances provide opportunities for spillover events, which evolution capitalizes on, transforming them into global health crises. The Influenza pandemic of 1918-1920 and the emergence of SARS CoV-19 virus in December 2019 illustrate the severe consequences of such crises. Factors such as rapid population growth, urbanization, increased human-wildlife interactions, deforestation, and global travel have all facilitated the transmission of once-isolated viruses to larger human populations. With a global burden of 2.5 billion cases of infection and 2.7 million human deaths worldwide each

year, zoonotic diseases (originating in animals and jumping to humans) constitute 60 percent of known infectious diseases and up to 75 percent of new infectious diseases; hence, significantly burden global health.

The National One Health Programme-Prevention and Control of Zoonoses (NOHP- PCZ), National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India decided to plug the gaps that the COVID-19 revealed; the inadequacy of the Indian health system in providing an integrated One Health response. The health system already burdened



with various health challenges needed a prioritized and competent multisectoral platform for One Health. As a next step, NOHP-PCZ, NCDC held a National Conclave on “Uniting for One Health on 6th-7th July, 2023, in Delhi.

The conclave witnessed unprecedented convergence with the engagement of high-level delegates from multiple ministries and representatives from various departments like public health, animal health, environment, agriculture, forestry, climate change, and wildlife and development partners, including USAID, WHO, CDC, and PATH. It was a first-of-its-kind convergence experience with scope for future collaboration that will remain a landmark event within the realm of public health.

- Expand the surveillance network for critical zoonotic diseases. Integrate data from various sources using advanced analytics and AI.

The conclave witnessed participation from over 160 distinguished guests from 28 states. The participants convened at the Conclave signed the 'Pledge Wall', accompanied by a message advocating for the unification of efforts and affirming their commitment to work cohesively for One Health. The objectives of the conclave were primarily met, and the outcomes were achieved. Much was learned from the deliberations and the discussions on implementation and collaboration issues and how to proceed.

As a next step, overcoming the challenges will be crucial in safeguarding the health and well-being of



The objectives of the conclave were

- To enhance intersectoral surveillance for zoonoses to consolidate and merge diverse data reporting platforms, facilitating data integration.
- Prototype Development for Multi-Sectoral Zoonoses Data Reporting in relevant sectors to record and report zoonotic data from multiple sectors, fostering collaboration and coordinated efforts.
- Emphasize Data Integration in Zoonoses Surveillance to promote a cohesive approach in data collection, analysis, and reporting by prioritizing data integration, foster multi-sectoral and inter-departmental collaboration, facilitating joint risk assessment.

humans, animals, and the environment in India. By consolidating efforts, expanding knowledge, integrating data, embracing technology, prioritizing collaboration among sectors, and engaging communities, the spread of infectious and emerging threats of zoonotic diseases can be mitigated.

However, addressing the challenges and implementing the recommendations will require collective action and commitment from all sectors involved. The National Conclave is an essential step towards achieving this shared vision and assuring the well-being of humans, animals, and the environment.

Recommendations

1. Strengthen Collaboration & Information Sharing: In light of the interconnected nature of human, animal, and environmental health, it is essential for countries and international organizations to collaborate and share information on disease surveillance, outbreaks, and response measures. This will facilitate early detection and rapid response to potential health threats, enabling a proactive approach to preventing and controlling zoonotic diseases.

2. Foster Multisectoral Collaboration: To effectively address zoonotic disease outbreaks, collaboration and coordination among various sectors, such as health, agriculture, environment, and wildlife, must be promoted. Breaking down silos and facilitating information sharing will enable joint risk assessment and response planning, leading to comprehensive strategies for disease control.

3. Invest in Robust Surveillance and Early Warning Systems: Allocation of resources and funding is necessary to establish and enhance surveillance networks for zoonotic diseases with animal origins. Early warning systems will provide timely alerts, enabling swift and targeted interventions to contain outbreaks at their source. Investing in prevention now is far more cost-effective than dealing with the consequences of large-scale pandemics later.

4. Prioritize Comprehensive Disease Surveillance: The programme should prioritize establishing comprehensive disease surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases, focusing on priority diseases like Food and Mouth Diseases, Avian Influenza, Rabies, etc. This will help streamline resources and efforts, enabling timely detection, monitoring, and response to potential outbreaks.

