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## **U.S. Agency for International Development Position Statement on One Health**

Jointly drafted by Bureaus for Humanitarian Assistance; Resilience, Environment, and Food Security; Global Health; Conflict Prevention and Stabilization; and the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe & Eurasia, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Bureaus

Recognizing the increasing number and growing complexity and severity of compounding global threats and the need for transdisciplinarity, and

Acknowledging that the One Health approach effectively leverages and synergizes the Agency's vast technical expertise to design long-term holistic solutions to a wide range of cross-sectoral development and humanitarian challenges such as food and water insecurity, antimicrobial resistance, pollution, ecosystem degradation, and zoonotic and transboundary diseases and outbreaks, which climate change will exacerbate,

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) endorses systems thinking to advance the One Health approach throughout the Agency by adhering to the following guiding principles.

### Guiding Principles:

- Acknowledge that a One Health approach is a cornerstone of USAID's Mission, and that synergistically promoting the health of ecosystems, people, and animals supports USAID's and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>1</sup>
- Ensure we operate in a transdisciplinary, **collaborative** manner, both **internally and externally**, capitalizing on the Agency's vast technical depth and diversity to strengthen global **resilience**;
- Promote **equity** and **inclusivity** in One Health **communications** and **coordination** to better serve **Missions, beneficiaries, implementing partners, and staff**;
- **Synergize** objectives, learning, and actions across sectors in both development and humanitarian programming for more evidence-based, sustainable, and effective outcomes;
- Encourage constructive **cross-sectoral** dialogue to find creative solutions, beginning with the end in mind; and
- Recognize and assign monetary value to the robust natural resource base in sustainably meeting food, water, and livelihood needs and supporting healthy, **resilient** communities that are better able to withstand shocks and stresses.

### Operational Actions:

- Leverage the **transdisciplinary** expertise of the Agency's One Health Working Group to provide **cross-sectoral solutions** to complex One Health challenges;
- Promote and support **systems-wide**, locally led, holistic, risk- and evidence-based approaches to addressing global threats, taking into account the complexities of sociobehavioral change, markets and value chains, food and water insecurity, and global governance;
- **Adaptively manage** our programs based on evidence and results;
- Take advantage of and promote cross-Bureau collaboration and programming mechanisms to strengthen and build coherence around the **humanitarian-development-peace** nexus;

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<sup>1</sup> Also acknowledging [OHHLEP's One Health definition](#) without explicitly adopting it as USAID's definition of One Health, or directly adopting its operational plan.



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- Seek to blend program resourcing creatively across disciplines to move beyond siloed resource challenges that limit application of One Health solutions; and
- **Intentionally integrate**, as appropriate, One Health into Agency-wide policy, strategy, and framework documents to institutionalize One Health throughout USAID.

By utilizing the One Health<sup>2</sup> approach, the Agency can leverage innovative solutions for long-term impact. USAID is committed to working with global and local partners to advocate for and facilitate more transdisciplinary and integrated approaches to development and humanitarian response.

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<sup>2</sup> USAID's commitment to One Health does not exclude and is not intended to diminish the validity or importance of other, related frameworks or lenses in our work.