



Funded by the European Union



One Health, One Caribbean, One Love Project

Consortium

Implementing partners:

- Faculty of Veterinary, University of the West Indies (UWI) St Augustine, *Trinidad and Tobago (Project Coordinator)*
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), *USA*
- Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), *France*
- Ministry of Agriculture, *Guyana*
- Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Cooperatives, *St. Kitts and Nevis*
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, *Grenada*

Associated partners:

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), *Italy*

Budget

Total budget: €1,164,344.42
EU contribution: €989,692.76

Duration

March 2014 - June 2017

Countries of intervention



- Antigua & Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Lucia
- St Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad & Tobago



Development challenge

The Caribbean nations physical distance, diversity, and disparities in governance among nations complicate efforts to promote an integrated, holistic approach to problems at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health. The region faces significant problems such as more frequent and severe tropical storms and hurricanes, water shortages, rising sea levels, fisheries losses, increases in mosquito-borne diseases, and chronic non-communicable diseases linked to poor nutrition, poverty, and environmental pollution.

Many of Caribbean countries are unable to recognise and diagnose infectious animal and zoonotic diseases. This puts the animal and human populations, as well as the tourist-dependent Caribbean economies, in jeopardy.

With the recent emergence of new and untold animal and zoonotic diseases both globally and in the Caribbean, as well as the effects of climate change on incidence and rates of transmission, it has become critical to be able to recognise, diagnose, and respond to these diseases locally.



Project approach

The One Health, One Caribbean, One Love project approach is a collaborative, multisectoral and transdisciplinary approach working at the local, national and Caribbean region level with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognising the interconnection between humans, animals, plants and their shared environment, named the One Health approach.

The Caribbean's low internal capacity, limited resources, and high burden of infectious and noncommunicable diseases clearly point to the importance of pursuing a One Health approach involving close collaboration and resource sharing among human, animal, agricultural, and environmental health sectors both within and between Caribbean Island states.

Following a One Health approach has many advantages, including increased awareness of health issues, fewer unintended consequences from health-related problems, reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to major health threats / disease outbreaks, and higher levels of efficiency in dealing with health threats, resulting in lower human/animal health care costs.



Project results



The "One Health" approach has been promoted and implemented throughout the Caribbean region. The Caribbean Community drafted and approved a Caribbean One Health policy (CARICOM).

Approval and endorsement of a CARICOM One Health regional policy by CARICOM Chief Medical Officers, Chief Veterinary Officers, and Ministers of Agriculture, Health, and Environment.

A six-year One Health strategic framework outlining policy implementation was written and distributed to Caribbean countries and international organisations by the 29 One Health Leaders from 12 Caribbean countries.



12 community-based One Health national projects were created, developed, and implemented by national One Health networks.



12

Small scale One Health Projects.



8

Promotional and



20

training videos.



2

One Health webinars.



300

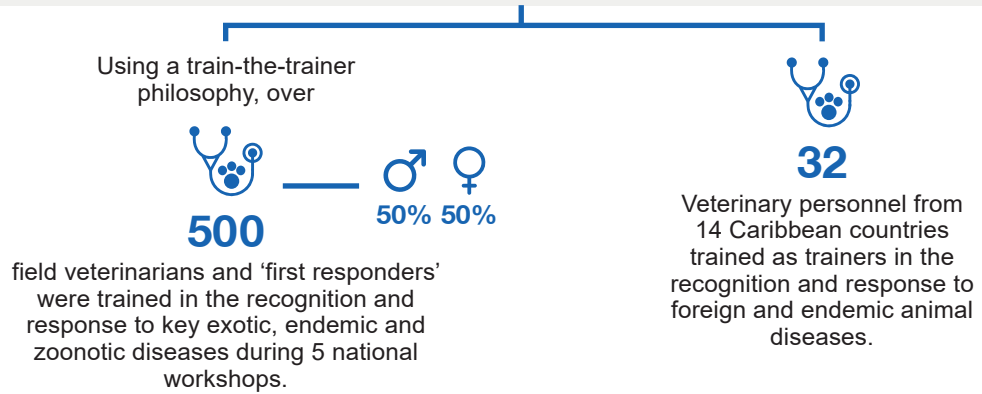
Hard copies of book 'Caribbean resilience and prosperity through One-Health' distributed to key Caribbean One Health stakeholders.



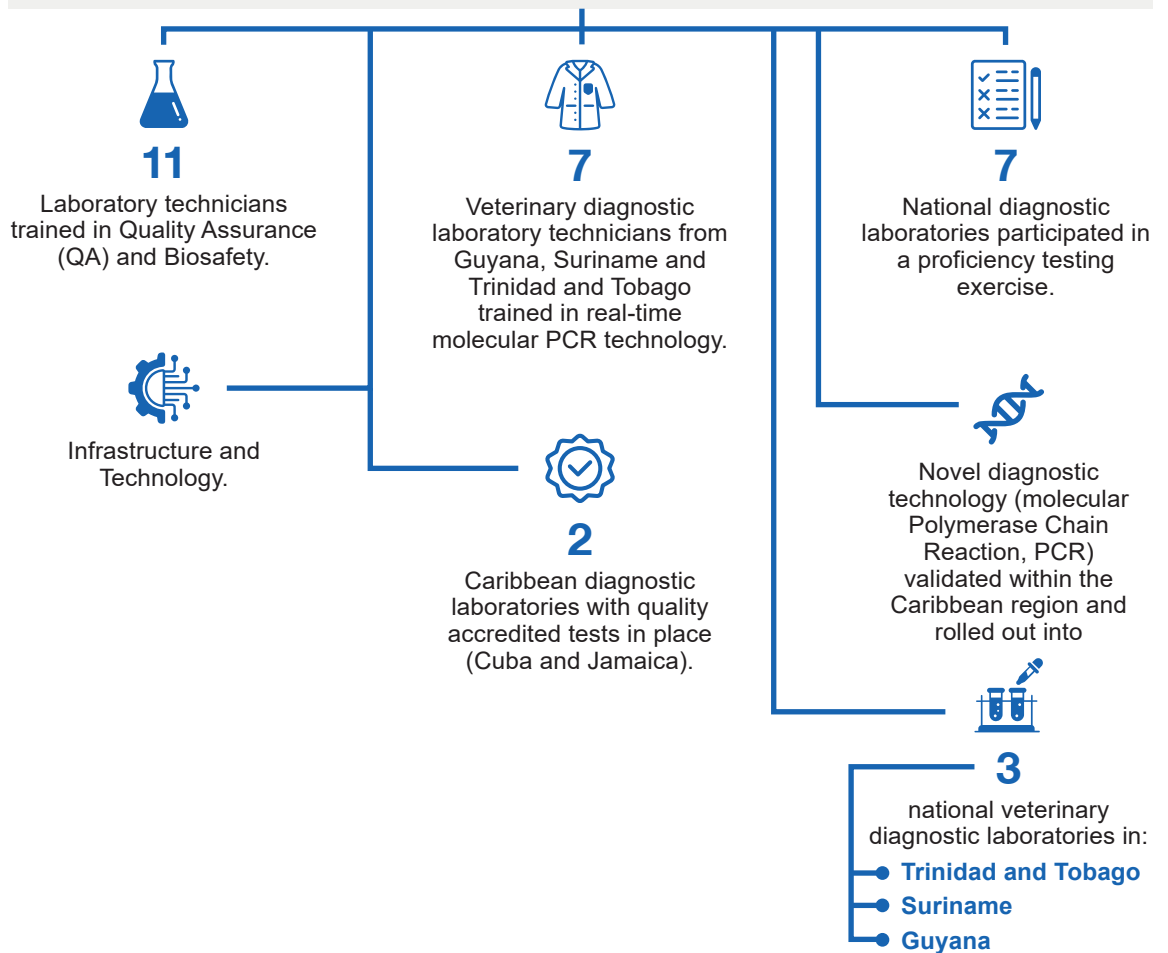
Project results (2)



Improved knowledge and recognition capabilities of veterinarians and first responders on key exotic and zoonotic disease:



Strengthen Laboratory capacity and capability in veterinary diagnostic laboratories throughout the region through Quality Assurance & Biosafety training, proficiency testing, and the introduction of novel molecular diagnostic techniques into laboratories.



2 Research papers published between 2014 - 2017.



Impact

The **One Health, One Caribbean, One Love project** has been a huge success and brought in great impact on the Caribbean countries. With an increase in infectious animal and zoonotic diseases. The One Health approach addressed the health issues on a regional and national scale. Many organisations fostered resilience through shared health factors and this led to the formation of national One Health networks. This project has brought changes across all levels from small livestock the grassroots level to the top, with a strong governmental participation and involvement.



Sustained Impact

Schedule for July 2022 third lecture series "**One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**".

"**The One Health Lecture Series (TOHLS)**" helps operationalise One Health with in the routine operations of organisations and individuals. Supported by the Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors, Caribbean College of Family Physicians-Jamaica Chapter, Caribbean Public Health Agency and the Center of Disease Control – Caribbean Regional Office. The series are held virtually in the form of webinar over four (4) days (evenings) for an hour a half each session. Support is also provided by other One Health Leaders in the Caribbean and from the One Health, One Caribbean One Love project team.

April 2022, second lecture series "**One Health as a strategy for combating emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases**", 350 participants for each session.

Across the Caribbean countries, multiple stakeholders from various ministries, NGOs, universities, and the private sector are now promoting One Health in their work.

January 2022, first series "**Building One Health Capacity for effective response to global health**", 250 participants for each session from 16 countries predominantly in the Caribbean.



Sustained Impact (2)

In Jamaica, there are **collaborative research projects on zoonotic diseases** involving researchers and graduate students of a local university and the veterinary community.

In Jamaica, in response to the Covid19 pandemic, the Government passed the Disaster Risk Management Act in which all registered veterinarians were designated among the "Authorized Officers" under the Act. As a result, veterinarians and their staff could move freely during lockdowns or curfews to deal with emergencies and hospitalized patients. Animal health workers were also made eligible to receive Covid19 vaccinations in the initial vaccine roll out along with their human health counterparts. This was a result of increased One Health awareness of the importance of the animal health sector.

"**One Health Day Conference**" held in November for the past four years is the jointly coordinated by the **Jamaica Veterinary Association** and the **Caribbean College of Family Physicians Jamaica Chapter** and financed by local and international sponsors which are mostly from the private sector.

The conferences of 2018 and 2019 (in person) attracted over 120 participants each year. In 2018 70% of participants were from the animal health and environment sectors while this started to change in 2019 (http://jvma.org/images/OHD_Conference_2019_programme_FINAL.pdf).

In 2020 (virtual conference) 2-days and over 200 participants each day and physician attendance exceed that of veterinarians, as well as the increased participation from other health, agricultural and environmental professionals with attendees from outside Jamaica (http://jvma.org/images/OHD_Conference_2020_programme_Final.pdf).

In 2021 participants peaked at 750 and 850 for each day, with physicians, nurses, med techs, pharmacists, managers, PHIs, dentists, vets, AHAs, environmental officers etc. Some attendees from various parts of the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Pakistan. The conference was promoted by the Caribbean Vet Medical Association, the Commonwealth Vet Association, CCFP Regional including their Planetary health hub linked to the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA). Due to the number of sponsors financing this conference the event was free of costs to all registrants (http://jvma.org/images/OHD_Conference_2021_programme_Final.pdf)



Key lessons learned and best practices

To succeed One Health needs both top down and bottom-up approach to be implemented, it is not only the government formal system that is needed but also the individuals in their various disciplines at the ground level who can change how they do things to make it work.

Importance of lobbying key ministries and the generation of interministerial collaboration.

Potential and effectiveness of dissemination channels.



Importance of collaborating across interdisciplinary sectors such as Public Health and Environmental Health together with Veterinarians in the control of Zoonotic diseases.

One Health awareness plays a major role to enhance the important role of veterinarians and family doctors in the control of Zoonotic diseases.

Importance of establishing good working relation across Government Veterinary services and National Environmental and planning Agencies.