Hello,

Welcome to this edition of OHCEA News! Through this forum we share with you the latest happenings within the One Health Central and Eastern Africa. This edition of the OHCEA newsletter brings to you activities that were conducted March-May 2016.

OHCEA network has been very busy; engaging in curricula review to integrate One Health, engaging high level stakeholders for strategic partnerships and collaborations, working at community level to create awareness about One Health challenges and sharing experiences and expertise across countries and continents.

In this publication, we are sharing mainly work on the One Health Workforce program. The One Health Workforce initiative is one of the three investments under the USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT 2), with goals that include; supporting African and Southeast Asian One Health University Networks to participate with government, academia, and other key partners in defining One Health workforce needs, identification of One Health workforce needs, training future and current One Health workforce needs, training future and current One Health workforce.

In OHCEA member institutions, several initiatives are going on including curricula review processes to integrate modules on One Health, designing new programs to address current and future workforce needs for One Health, community outreach activities geared at making visible One Health issues to the communities and creating awareness around these issues; engagement policy decision makers on One Health workforce policy issues as well as equipping in-service workforce with relevant skills for one health multi-disciplinary practice and service delivery.

We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter! Please let us know what you think we should include in the subsequent editions.

Enjoy your Reading!

*Professor William Bazeyo*

*Principal Investigator/CEO OHCEA*
OHCEA Holds its 16th Board of Directors’ Meeting

OHCEA’s Board of Directors is comprised of 9 members with the Regional Program Manager as the Secretary. The Board meets on a quarterly basis to review the network’s performance, formulate policy, oversee promotion and realization of OHCEA’s vision and mission, consider annual work plans and budgets, mobilize resources, approve staff structure and appointments, and make recommendations for the Summit’s consideration.

The 16th OHCEA Board of Directors’ meeting was held at Ngorongoro Serena Hotel in Tanzania on March 21 to 22, 2016. It was attended by 7 Board members and the Director of the One Health Workshop (OHW) Project. Key among the issues discussed were: progress of implementation of year 2 OHW activities, resource mobilization and sustainability of OHCEA activities, OHCEA structure, work plan for Senegal, rationalizing US partners’ faculty support to OHCEA, and Monitoring and Evaluation of OHCEA activities. The resolutions and recommendations from the 16th Board meeting will be presented to the next Deans’ Summit that will take place in Uganda on July 13 and 14, 2016.

OHCEA Board Members

1. Prof. Philemon Wambura – Sokone University (Chair)
2. Prof. William Bazeyo – Makerere University
3. Prof. Juvenal Kagarama – University of Rwanda
4. Prof. Gebrehiwot Tadesse – Mekelle University
5. Prof. Mahangaiko Muyumba – University of Lubumbashi
6. Prof. Deborah Kochevar - Tufts University
7. Prof. David Urassa – Muhimbili University
8. Prof. David Kabasa – Makerere University
9. Prof. Charles Mulei – University of Nairobi
10. Dr. Irene Naigaga – OHCEA Secretariat (Secretary)
Risk Analysis, a tool used by intergovernmental organizations (such as WHO, OIE and FAO) to assess disease risk in countries in a cost-effective manner was identified as a top priority need during the needs assessment conducted under Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT 1) in Ethiopia. As a response to this need, OHCEA Ethiopia developed Risk Analysis training materials followed by training-of-trainers (TOT) for rolling out Risk Analysis training in the One Health Workforce in the country. The training-workshop took place from May 6-10, 2016 at Addis Ababa, Harmony Hotel.

Public officials who attended the training from the various country offices acquired knowledge and tools in risk management and risk communication. The training was attended by 28 participants coming from government institutions and from Jimma and Mekelle Universities.

The training was facilitated by a team of experts including, Dr. Fernando Sampedro, Dr. Yohannes Tekle, Dr. Leilisa Seina, Dr. Said Tiku, Dr. Hailu Degefu and Mr. Dejen Yemane.

As part of this endeavor the program utilizes OHCEA Ethiopia network members (country coordinating committee members, Focal persons and faculty), P&R Risk Analysis Experts and US university partner faculty as program ‘mentors’ to strengthen 30 Risk Analysis “trainers” from government ministries to train a larger cohort of 100 participants from regions where Jimma and Mekelle Universities are located.

The goals of the training were; 1) train the trainers for delivering risk analysis training to different government offices, 2) identify small projects for groups to work together on risk analysis based on the priorities for the country with mentorship from experts Professor Kifle Weldemichael opened the training. He emphasized the need to ensure that cascading of the training gets implemented. He therefore called for active participation of the trainees in the training so as to derive maximum benefit from it and realize the training objectives. Dr. Fernando Sampedro introduced the participants to the importance of connecting academia and government in controlling outbreaks and risks.

As part of the session on Risk Management Framework and Risk Management Steps, the participants developed a risk management plan for specific situations in Ethiopia. The session on Risk prioritization in food safety equipped participants with knowledge and skills in how to prioritize risk and how to use risk prioritization tools (decision trees and decision matrix) to rank the pathogens in food. A hands-on activity enabled participants to exercise the use of decision matrices to rank the chemicals in food and each group used foods highly consumed in Ethiopia and applied the decision matrix to identify the risk level (low, medium, high) for the chemicals.

Dr. Abebe Wosen made a presentation on the activities of USAID Preparedness and Response and Ebola Virus Disease risk assessment process in Ethiopia.

The most important part of the training was project development in the areas of Food Safety, Trans Boundary Diseases and Zoonotic diseases. The main objective of this part of the training was to put into practice the theoretical knowledge participants acquired during the four days. The exercise also provided opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration across the teams from different sectors.

As a result of this training, the groups identified priorities and specific research projects for the country as follow up to the training. Project identified included; 1) Reducing the risk of rabies in Jimma zone using sustainable mitigation strategies; 2) Improving food handling practices in public services of Jimma town; 3) Microbial load in beef at butcher houses in Addis Ababa; 4) Assessment of aflatoxin concentration in Injera processed in Addis Ababa; 5) Assessment of prevalence, associated risk factors and evaluation of control measures of rabies in human and animals in Tigray region, 6) Assessment of prevalence, associated risk factors and evaluation of control measures of Anthrax in humans and animals in Tigray region.
OHCEA orients new staff and sets up office in Cameroon

Faculty of Health Sciences, Université des Montagnes (UdM) of Cameroon was the 15th member to be admitted in OHCEA. UdM was not only the first member to be admitted from Cameroon but also happens to be the only private institution so far. To ensure proper coordination of activities, OHCEA recruits staff and also sets up an office in each of the partner countries. UdM provided office space at Bangangte for the country office. Having recruited a Country Administrator and Focal Person, OHCEA’s next step was to set up an office and orient staff who run the office and those who lead implementation of activities. Orientation of new staff was conducted at Benco Hotel in Bangangte on April 1st-2nd 2016. The orientation was facilitated by Ms Lilian Leku (UMN Senior Finance Officer), Ms Sara Nannyanzi (OHCEA Regional Manager -Finance and Administration) and Mr. Timothy Wakabi (OHCE Head M&E). Participants to the orientation included the Country Administrator, Focal Person, activity leads, and the Dean / Vice President. During the orientation, participants were trained on USAID rules and procedures, OHCEA’s Financial and Administrative Policies and Procedures, OHW M&E and reporting requirements and procedures. Participants were also trained on Asana, a project management tool used by the OHW. In addition, participants reviewed the implementation plan, ensuring that all activities have activity leads and that the implementation dates were realistic.

As part of hands-on training on procurement procedures for the Country Administrator, the Finance and Administration team from UMN and OHCEA worked with the Country Administrator to procure various office furniture, equipment and consumables. Furthermore, the team also trained the Country Administrator on how to use some of the equipment. OHCEA Cameroon Country office is now equipped and functional.
OHCEA Tanzania conducted a One Health in-service leadership training with the main objective of training 23 in-service health professionals with introductory One Health leadership skills and competencies and to establish and strengthen a progressive One Health leadership development programme for the OHCEA network within the country. The training also aimed to develop and build leadership mentorship skills and experience towards establishment of an active mentoring network in the target districts of Kilolo, Mbarali, Njombe and Iringa. The training also aimed at addressing barriers to the One Health approach through developing experience and competency in communication, collaboration and leadership.

This is the third in-service course on One Health leadership training among leaders in Tanzania. It was conducted for five days, 11th -15th May 2016. Twenty in-service leaders were trained with the primary aim of increasing the level of advocacy on One Health leadership, increasing the networking capacity and increase their involvement in inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary One Health teams. The training took place at the Giraffe Oceanic View Hotel conference facility:-Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

The School of Public Health and Social Sciences of Muhimbili University of Health and Social Sciences (MUHAS) in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Disaster Management Department of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit organized the workshop under OHCEA management.

A total of twenty three in-service district workers were trained on One Health leadership, and they included District Medical Officers, Veterinary Officers, District Planning Officer, District Education Officers and District Health Officer from the four selected districts. The diverse backgrounds of participants provided an opportunity for sharing of experiences both among participants, as well as between participants and facilitators.

The training emphasized key One Health leaders’ competence areas- visionary & strategic, communication, team building and change management.

Based on the evaluation done during the course, it has been noted that the level of advocacy of the participants as individuals and in teams has increased. Furthermore, their networking capacity has been improved. It is expected that following the interactions and linkages established during the training, participants will increasingly get involved in inter-sectoral as well as inter-disciplinary One Health teams. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will be done by facilitators assisted by the Country Coordinating Committee based on the documented way forward in the respective districts and key ministries as well as the collaborating universities.

Working in district groups, participants- guided by facilitators- identified three main problems whose intervention requires a One Health approach. These are Rabies, Environmental sanitation and Solid waste management.
OHCEA Tanzania conducted a joint interdisciplinary training for undergraduate students from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) on ‘control of emerging pandemic threats and other zoonotic diseases’. This was a collaborative training facilitated by faculty from MUHAS and SUA. A total of 106 students from both institutions were involved in the training, including fifty seven (57) 5th year Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine students from SUA 49 second year BSc. Environmental Health students from MUHAS. Six faculty were involved with the training as instructors; four from SUA and two from MUHAS.

The training was conducted at SUA campus, Morogoro.

The training aimed at introducing students to emerging pandemic threats (EPT) and other important zoonotic diseases and empower them with the principles of their prevention, control and eradication using the abattoir as a model. The topics that were covered included: Overview of One Health concepts; One Health Competencies and Domains, linking with EPT and One Health Workforce (OHW) project; (i) PREDICT: A relevant predictive Public Health approach for EPT in Tanzania; (ii) Zoonosis and other One Health and Public health upcoming issues like antibiotic resistance (AMR); (iii) General meat hygiene and quality assessment; (iv) Biorisk measures in selection of areas for abattoir construction; (v) Abattoir lay out, management and sanitation; (vi) Antemortem inspection of animals & the common diseases and postmortem meat inspection & the common pathological lesions; (vii) Animal byproducts from abattoir as potential sources of zoonosis to humans; (viii) Wastes and waste management from abattoir as a means of prevention of EPT, zoonosis and other emerging pollutants (antibiotic residues and natural hormones) from abattoir; (ix) Occupational diseases and injuries: Hospital model and Food industry (abattoir) model.

For each of the covered theoretical topics, students participated in practical sessions which included a visit to the abattoir; focusing on the abattoir layout, facilities available and ante-mortem animal examination, meat inspection & transportation of meat to meat shops (butchers), waste management and sanitation, assessment of condemned organs.

The five days training enhanced interactions between veterinary students from SUA and their counterpart BSc. Environmental Health students from MUHAS. Apart from the theoretical training in classes, practical training at the abattoir; students had opportunities to participate in sporting activities during some evenings.

Majority of the students said that the training was relevant to their career; there was a lot of new information and learning provided; useful materials and knowledge gained; the training expanded their understanding of One Health; the training met the intended objectives as were stated in the programme; the training met the expectations of students and all of them promised to make use of the materials and knowledge gained in their professional career.

Additionally, students said that the interaction enabled them make new friends across the two universities.
Uganda’s One Health Institute

The One Health Institute (OHI) which is part of OHCEA, opened on the 2nd May 2016 with the first intake of participants. The theoretical training was conducted at the ResilientAfrica Network (RAN), Offices Upper Kololo Terrace.

Overall, six theoretical modules on One Health principles were delivered from 2nd May. This was followed by a short introduction to Field Attachments after which the participants left for the Field Attachment Sites or the Fellowship posts from the 21st May 2016.

During the theoretical component, participants were taken through modules on Leadership and Gender against a one health background, Outbreak Investigation, Bio-risk management and Antimicrobial Resistance, community assessment and documentation and reporting.

Trainers were staff from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Makerere University; a combination of trainers that enriched the experience of the participants with field and other experiences.

Two faculty from the University of Minnesota were also available to support the OHI. Dr Heidi Kassenborg, a Food borne Illness Prevention and Response Consultant worked with the Teams on Outbreak Investigation and Bio-Risk Management, while Dr John Amuasi, a Public Health Systems and Policy Consultant worked with the Health Policy Analysis Team.

The last modules on the Theoretical Modules on Health Policy Analysis was delivered on the 16th and 17th May. The participants appreciated Health Systems and Public Health and were able to relate One Health to this aspect. Then it was onto the Problem and how to translate it into policy. This module was delivered under the Leadership of Mr Chrispus Mayora MakSPH; Dr Sylvia Baluka-COVAB; Mr Aloysius Mutebi-MakSPH; Dr Elizabeth Ekirapa, Prof Freddie Sengooba MakSPH and Prof Peter Waiswa, also of MakSPH.

To support this module was Dr John Amuasi, a Public Health Systems and Policy Consultant from the University of Minnesota.
On the 18th –20th May the students were taken through the Pre-Attachment module where they were introduced to Social aspects of Community Engagement, Assessment collection of data in the community and team work among others. They had a whole day for design thinking included.

The attachments are being supported by Prof Rosenbaum Marieke from Tufts University.

The workshop ended on a high note with a motivational talk from Prof Kabasa John David on Repositioning One Health in Education.

A total of 26 students (Cohort A) have been distributed between the One Health Demo sites at Lyantonde, Sanga (near L.Mburo National Park) and Rubirizi for the next four weeks starting 21st -23rd May 2016. Three Faculty (including Prof Rosenbaum Marieke) will be with them at each Demo sites. They will return on 18th June. Dr Heidi Kassenborg from University of Minnesota will join and support the attachments in June after the Biorisk and Outbreak investigation modules in the second Cohort of OHI.

Uganda’s Minister of Education calls for institutionalisation of One Health

Sunday 24th April was a depressing grey-skied day. It was threatening to rain; venturing outdoors in Uganda when it is raining is a fool-hardy thing to do. For the One Health advocates and proponents however, nothing would deter them from embarking on the adventure of their lives; ‘Running for One Health’. As one of the activities organised to mark the One Health-themed World Veterinary Day, organisers in Uganda flagged off the week-long line-up of activities with a run across the capital, Kampala. One Health Central and Eastern Africa was one of the sponsors of the run. The run that attracted over 200 people, including students from multiple disciplines covered a distance of seven kilometres from Freedom square (Makerere University)-Wandegeya-Lumumba Avenue-Sheraton Hotel-Fairway Hotel- Mulago Roundabout-Wandegeya-Freedom square. The run was flagged off by Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu while the Chief Runner was the Minister of State, Animal Industry, Bright Rwamirama.

At the run, the President Uganda Veterinary Association, Dr. Lali Mundigo Dominic announced that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) had procured 300,000 doses of rabies vaccines to be used up to September 2016.

“Please mobilise the population to participate in the vaccination. Drugs being resisted in animals and people are the same in some cases”, he emphasised. Rabies is one of the most rampant animal-human diseases in Uganda. Minister Rwamirama pointed out that more than 70% of human diseases have animal origin. In Uganda, the most notorious of these being are rabies and brucellosis. “It is important to work together, different professionals have been going it separately”, he concluded.

A One Health Symposium was held with the OHCEA Chief Executive Officer, Professor William Bazeyo giving a keynote address.
During the week-long celebrations, an exhibition was running at Makerere University Freedom Square. OHCEA used this opportunity to encourage more students to join One Health Students Clubs, encourage more relevant University units to be a part of One Health and create awareness of the need for a One Health approach to managing current and future global health and socio-economic challenges, among the general public.

Celebrations were concluded on 30th April at a ceremony presided over by the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, who represented the President.

In his own words, while inspecting the OHCEA exhibition stall, Dr. Ruganda noted that the One Health approach is the best way to manage the world’s current health problems. “I do like the fact that these many different institutions have come together to work for a common goal”.

In a speech read for him by the Prime Minister, President Yoweri Museveni pointed out the importance of educating the population in technologies that can delay and mitigate the effects of climate change. “In order to sustain the animal sector which is very susceptible to drought effects, we must educate our people not to continue destroying the water catchment areas, while we work out mechanisms of harvesting and storing water for the bad times”, he counselled.

The Minister of Education, Honourable Jesca Alupo, called for institutionalisation of One Health in Ugandan institutions, including Makerere University.

Add: The OHcea PI, Professor William Bazeyo said in OHcea, Makerere University has established a Centre of Excellence where people from different parts of the world come to access information on OH in the region. He said the network agreed to cause change by demystifying training different professionals together, so that when they go out, they are knowledgeable beyond their primary disciplines.

Professor John David Kabasa, the Principal College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security pointed out that there are many innovations in this area, but affordability of these innovations is still a challenge. He appealed to government to help upgrade facilities at Makerere University so that the University can compete with global innovation leaders.

The event was organised as a partnership between Makerere University (SPH, COVAB, OHcea), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries and the Uganda Veterinary Association.
OHCEA Uganda gets new Focal Persons

Dr. Peninah Nsamba

Peninah is a Veterinary Doctor (Large Animal Practitioner) and Virologist (BVM Makerere University and PhD University of Pretoria). She has worked on Foot-and Mouth Disease virus for her PhD. Molecular and Phenotypic Characterisation of selected FMDV in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is currently working in the Department of Biomolecular Resources and Biolab Sciences (BBS), School of Biosecurity, Biotechnical and Laboratory Sciences (SBLS) at Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (CoVAB).

Dr. Esther Buregyeya

Esther Buregyeya (MD, MPhil, PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health at Makerere University School of Public Health. She is a disease control expert with a medical degree, a master of philosophy in international health-occupational health and a PhD in medical sciences. Esther has over 16 years of experience in service including clinical work in a district as a medical officer, teaching and research. Her research interests are in tuberculosis, HIV, other infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases. She has conducted various studies including HIV risk behaviors in a workplace, access to HIV counseling and testing among health workers, effects of enhanced availability of funding from global health initiatives, TB infection control, malaria and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. She has has co-authored publications in the above mentioned areas in peer reviewed journals. Esther is currently working as the OHCEA Focal Person for Makerere University School of Public Health/ College of Health Sciences, a position she assumed in April, 2016.

What did the World Veterinary Day Celebration “One Health Run” mean?

Dr. Samuel George Okech

One health is, “the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines - working locally, nationally and, globally - to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment” as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association. One Health training is the key thrust of this year’s World Veterinary Day celebrations. A One Health run that took place on Sunday 24th April 2016 in Kampala marked the beginning of the week-long Veterinary Week activities that ultimately culminated into this year’s World Veterinary Day Celebrations in Uganda, on 30th April 2016. What did this run signify?

Firstly, running is a process of quicker progression and is usually done towards something good or away from something bad or just for maintaining fitness or even for fun. In this case it demonstrated forward progression in the realisation of the significance of One Health in the global health agenda. In Uganda, practice and training in the universities are now conscious of one health concepts and the one health core competences.

That is forward progression and is not slow.

Secondly, there was no loser. All participants won. The cause was noble - the running was for the health of humans, animals and the environment. These three co-exist and have some health matters in common, hence one will contribute to the health or ill health of the other. When we run for the good health of all these three, we all surely win.

Thirdly, running to the finishing line signified a very important tenet and indicator of success despite the ups and downs experienced on the route. This demonstrated the need to remain committed and to persevere no matter what, for the sake of humanity and the associated resources that form the ecosystem that humans live in. It signified further the need to stay the course for executing the mission of One Health to achieve the goal of global health agenda. The race had a starting and finishing point thus demonstrating the need to start and stay the course of a mission to the finishing line - start with the end in mind and stay the course to the end.

Fourthly, it was a run that demonstrated the need to harness the power of diversity to accomplish a mission. The run had participants of different age groups, different professional backgrounds, different levels of training including students, different specialties within the professions and from different sectoral backgrounds. There was also diversity in nationality of participants. This demonstrated the global nature of one health as indicated in the definition above.

All of us are invited to embrace the concepts of One Health; act locally, nationally, regionally and globally so as to make a significant positive and impactful contribution to meeting the greater global health needs. We are further invited to thank the organisers of the run, notably Makerere University, Uganda Veterinary Association and One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA).

Dr. Samuel George Okech is Former President, Uganda Veterinary Association (2008-2012) and lecturer in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security.
University of Rwanda (UR) Nyagatare campus One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) hosted a team from UMN, UR staff and One Health Students’ Club representatives from the seven UR campuses. The visit conducted 19th – 22nd April 2016, featured a number of activities. Day One featured a mixed research methods seminar held at Cyamazima campus and was attended by all staff from College of Agriculture, and Veterinary Medicine and College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The seminar facilitators were Professor Carolyn Porta assisted by Babra McMoris from School of Nursing, University of Minnesota USA.

The objectives of the seminar were; describing the state of science of mixed methods research, including philosophical and methodological advances in the last decade; identify common mixed methods designs, including purposes for each design; discuss key attributes of successful mixed method research projects; critique a mixed method publication for strength and weaknesses; generate a research question that is appropriately answerable with a mixed method design and identify three strengths of a well-written mixed method manuscript.

The Guest of Honour Dr. James Gashumba encouraged the staff to actively participate, and use the opportunity of having experienced staff from USA (UMN) to acquire knowledge and skills that will help them in their careers but also in service delivery. He further reminded the staff that since their professional promotion requires doing research and publications, this was the opportunity to gain enough additional knowledge and skills from the UMN team to improve their research skills.

Day 2 focused on One Health Students’ Club activities, including research and grant writing. Students who had received One Health Workforce research scholarships Professor Carolyn Porta thanked the students for the tremendous and tireless work; working hard to address community challenges through research as all researches presented had a One Health component and promote the One Health concept.

In addition, club members and leaders identified areas of focus to include in the Year 3 work plans at their respective campus.

Dr. Barbara McMorris trained the One Health Students’ Club members in good poster design and presentation, emphasizing areas like presentation of research results using pictures/pie charts and text format.

The idea of “case competition” was also presented to the students’ club as a platform where students can share knowledge across their campuses, other universities in Rwanda or abroad over specific topics in form of competition. This can help students to develop and enrich their understanding.
of different topics but in this case One Health competency.

Prof Carolyn suggested to UR_OHSC to adopt that model. The students suggested that this could be done through:

- Creation of multidisciplinary groups and competitions at campus level
- Choosing of case competition based on available challenges

Participants also visited Muvumba Rice Scheme and Kabasazi to observe animal-human conflicts. The aim of visit was to expose OH students on potential health hazards that can originate from rice scheme projects, wildlife and human conflicts, and research opportunities available for them.
University of Lubumbashi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine conducted a module-testing training on prevention, detection and response to epidemics, epizoonotics and resistance to antimicrobials and pesticides. It was provided to 40 learners at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Ten facilitators were also trained at this site. Cumulatively, a total of 100 learners and 20 facilitators have been trained; the first training having been conducted in December 2015.

The facilitators discussed the different modules that are to be used during the training of learners in prevention, detection and response during epidemics and epizootics, and resistance to antimicrobials and pesticides. Modules focused on (1) the ‘One health’ approach; (2) the prevention of nosocomial infections and emerging infectious diseases; (3) early detection of infections and (4) the response to epidemics. To complete these modules, two case studies, on avian flu and rabies, were designed to enhance the trainees’ understanding of the key concepts.

The modules developed were tested on the trainees of the higher Institute of Nursing School and the faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy and the School of Public Health.

Among other comments, it was recommended that the One Health concept should include the importance of training future health professionals, the importance of having in place a surveillance system and understanding the Human-Animal-environment interface, among other issues. It was also noted that the Democratic Republic of Congo is an epidemic hot-bed with limited capacity of the system to prevent, detect early and respond to epidemics and emergencies.

Training approaches used included a multi-disciplinary team-formation exercise; a field visit to an airport, market, abattoir, farm, laboratory) to illustrate some components of the modules. Group work was also used for learners to be able to discuss certain challenges.
OHCEA Kenya held a second faculty technical curriculum review workshop for Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management & Master of Science in Wildlife Health Management held on May 5th-6th 2016 at Hadassah Hotel, Nairobi. The workshop was held as a follow up of the first faculty technical review workshop that was held at Lukenya Getaway in August 2015. The workshop was held to input new suggestions and incorporate changes that have been gathered from the respective professors and lecturers taking the various courses in the course.

The review team comprised the Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the Heads of Departments, Coordinators Wildlife programs and members of Faculty Curriculum Committee.

During the review process, all the courses for BSc. Wildlife Management and Conservation, MSc. Wildlife Health Management and MSc Wildlife management and conservation were revised in line with University of Nairobi guidelines and Commission for University Education. The course objectives were also revised to be learner-based.

The proposed new curriculum was also aligned with CUE requirements and guidelines and benchmarked with those offered by key regional and global universities. The proposed curriculum will be presented for approval at the Faculty Board before being forwarded to the College Academic Board for approval, the Deans Committee and finally passed to the University Senate for final ratification. Once ratified, the curriculum will be circulated to departments and then it becomes the guiding curriculum for teaching.

It is expected that once approved the new curriculum will shape future professionals who will contribute to wildlife conservation and management for sustainable global development.

Above and below is the team busy at work
Students of Moi University conducted a community outreach activity at Makhene Primary School area, Saboti Sub County, Trans-nzoia County, may 7th 2016.

This activity was carried out in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross, the Indian community and Trans-nzoia County Government.

The objective of the activity was to help eradicate and educate people about Jiggers. The activity also included rabies control through dog and cat vaccinations as well as educating the community about the disease. Other activities included laboratory screening of various diseases such as HIV (including counselling) and malaria, basic breast cancer checks, children immunization and education on community health.

The One Health approach to managing health challenges, such as rabies outbreaks, aims to promote and implement meaningful collaboration and communication between multiple allied disciplines working together to attain optimal health for people, domestic animals, wildlife and the environment. This event brought together students and experts from diverse backgrounds that included Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, Nursing and Public Health. The diverse student and faculty backgrounds contributed to a rich learning environment and collective problem- solving using novel ideas coupled with technical approaches.

This activity drew participation from 75 students from Moi University and two faculty leads from Moi University and University of Nairobi.

Specifically, the club members carried out:

Anti- Rabies Vaccination (mainly and cats), community education on rabies, dog bites first aid education and animal handling.

Jiggers’ treatment -the club members in collaboration with Kenya Red Cross volunteers actively participated in the treatment. 156 people were treated, the majority of them children. Hydrogen peroxide was used to clean septic wounds and tetanus shots administered to those with severe cases. Trees were planted at the school after the treatment, courtesy of the Hindu Religious Community Services. 1000 tree seedlings were provided.

Medical treatment was provided by club members in their clinical years of study (5th and 6th year medical students and 5th year Dentistry students) with the guidance and supervision of the county medical staff. Services that were offered included blood sugar monitoring (diabetes), blood pressure testing, consultation services, and laboratory services for malaria, typhoid and UTIs. The laboratory tests were carried out by the laboratory technicians from the county with the help of club members. Drugs were dispensed by the county pharmacy technicians. Members of the community turned out in large numbers to receive these free services. Overall, 332 people were attended to in this section.

Maternal, Child Health and Family Planning were provided by undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students. Mothers were educated on Family Planning methods available and the importance of family planning, especially long term methods. A total of 38 mothers visited MCH and the FP tent and 7 children were immunized.

The students also administered a jiggers Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) questionnaire on Kinyoro residents.

Boys waiting to have their dogs registered for vaccination against rabies

Members of the community receiving treatment for jiggers

Animals and humans consume water from a dangerously dirty source
Kenya One Health Students Clubs conduct extensive Community activities for the Kipkelion West Subcounty

March 19th 2016, the One Health Students’ Clubs-Moi University in Liaison with University of Nairobi and Kericho County Government, conducted an outreach activity to Chebirir primary school area, Kipkelion West Sub County, Kericho County.

The visit to Kericho provided a field experience for 25 undergraduate students comprising of 3rd, 4th and 5th year students undertaking Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. Kipkelion West was identified and chosen based on recent outbreak of Rabies disease and rural set-up that limits community access to information.

Some of the key activities carried out during the day included:

- Rabies awareness
- Vaccination of dogs and cats against Rabies and issuing of certificates of vaccination
- Brucellosis awareness and education
- Education on First aid for dog bites and animal handling
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Oral/dental health education
- Family planning education
- Examination technique cancer awareness and education including breast cancer self-examination

The following experiences were gained during the event:

Public health students and veterinary medicine students engaged the community members in education about brucellosis. The disease is endemic in the area. The people who attended had the chance to be enlightened about the disease and were advised to seek medical attention where symptoms present themselves and embrace preventive measures.

During this event, the students took part in educating the members of the community on how to wash hands using water and soap using WHO guidelines. The public health officers helped in this activity.

The Kipkelion people were educated on how to maintain the environment clean, how to manage solid wastes, and use of toilets/pit latrines. Open defecation was discouraged as it poses a risk for contamination of the environment, water and pastures, spreading diseases.

Community members were also enlightened on living in separate quarters from domestic animals to avoid jiggers. They were advised to observe oral cleanliness through brushing their teeth regularly using the locally available materials such as sticks in case they couldn’t afford the manufacture toothbrushes. They were also advised to seek medical attention in of teeth/ oral problems such as toothaches. This activity was mostly done by the dental surgery students from Moi University.

One health students took part in educating mothers about family planning. Most of these students were nursing students from Moi University. They enlightened the mothers about the different methods of birth control available. Medical students utilize the chance to educate the mothers on breast and cervical cancer. Demonstrations were done on how to self-examine oneself for breast cancer.

One Health Club Conference “Thoughts on Ebola Epidemic” Educates Lubumbashi University students on Transmission and Management Dynamics of the Epidemic

The ‘Thought on Ebola Epidemic’ conference was held at School of Public Health, University of Lubumbashi attended by students, Faculty and Lecturers from School of Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing School (Institut Supérieur des Techniques Médicales - ISTM), and Faculty of Medicine. The objectives of the meeting were; stimulating discussion among students on the theme of the discussion, led by a panel of professors; use the opportunity for students to organize themselves into a One Health Club.

A film was screened before the Ebola discussion providing issues that stimulated the discussion. It was noted and emphasized that Ebola is a global public health problem of high significance. This significance is amplified by cultural practices and beliefs that aid transmission and contamination.

It was also noted that although the DRC has gathered enough experienced due to persistent outbreaks, health system resilience is still a major challenge, with no alert system.

In addition to multidisciplinary management of such outbreaks, regular updating of knowledge on behavioral studies is an important aspect.

The panelists also pointed out the cost implications of epidemiological surveillance for a country like DRC. The most cost-effective measure that was discussed is working with
The discussion also focused on training a responsive workforce, particularly for countries that have not yet experienced the Ebola outbreak as well as creating One Health clubs for students with activities that can enable them reach communities. In addition, conference participants noted that the modules being developed by OHCEA under the One Health Workforce project support will help address some of the knowledge and capacity gaps present. Students present noted that the One Health Club is a good initiative to raise awareness but also noted that holding more sessions like this conference will be critical in expanding their knowledge.

University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) One Health Students’ Club conducts Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

Members of the One Health Students Club from University of Kinshasa hosted a major conference on antimicrobial resistance, attended by over 300 students from various academic institutions (Human medicine, Veterinary medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing and Community Health) attended. Speakers included Dr. Diafuka Saila-Ngita (Africa Technical Advisor, USAID/EPT 2: One Health Workforce Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine Tufts University – USA), Dr. Marie-Jeanne Kabedi (Department of Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kinshasa), Prof. Kiyombo Mbela (School of Public Health, University of Kinshasa), Prof. Tona Lutete (School of Pharmacy, University of Kinshasa, Dr. Mbi (OIE Focal Person in charge of veterinary drugs, Directorate of Production and Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

In his presentation on global initiatives for the fight against antimicrobial resistance, Dr Diafuka noted that antimicrobial resistance is both as a major public health threat and a risk to global security to the extent that the resistance is present both in health facilities and in the community. He pointed out that drug resistance entails reduction of the effectiveness of first-line drugs, particularly for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The result is normally prolonged hospitalization, higher treatment costs using expensive drugs, high mortality, and loss of productivity, among other effects. He emphasised that since antibiotics are used in human health and animal health for curative...
University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) One Health Students’ Club conducts Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

treatment, control and prevention with an effect on growth, the solution to the problem of antimicrobial resistance requires a multidisciplinary approach, i.e. «One Health».

Students who attended the conference had the opportunity to acquire knowledge on various global initiatives using the OH approach to manage challenges posed by the emergence of antimicrobial resistance. These included Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP), the Advisory Group for Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGiSAR), update on the OIE Standards and Guidelines, GHSA (Global Health Security Agenda) which promotes multi-sectoral approach (health, agriculture, environment, education, economy and security) to better address the threats posed by natural emergence of new diseases and the intentional or accidental use of dangerous pathogens.

Other presentations focused on the biochemical mechanisms of antibiotic resistance, prevention of both nosocomial infections and antimicrobial resistance, drug Safety in Human Health (legislation, regulation, rational use of drugs and monitoring), pharmacovigilance in animal health.

Mobilizing for One Health

Ethiopian “One Health” Club Engages High School Students for Rabies Eradication Campaign

In April 2013, in Aynalem Village, located in Ethiopia’s Tigray Region, a rabid dog bit two cows and three people. Around the same time, several hyenas, suspected of having rabies, were found dead. In a separate incident in 2003, several hundred endangered Ethiopian wolves, the world’s rarest canid, died of suspected rabies.

Rabies, an infectious disease that can be passed from animals to humans and fatal without timely treatment, is an emerging epidemic in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has one of the highest reported per capita rates of human rabies deaths in the world, with approximately 15,000 deaths annually.

One contributing factor is a lack of public awareness about rabies, including the need for post-exposure treatment and for vaccinating domestic dogs, which are the primary disease carriers.
Jimma University in Ethiopia’s Oromia Region is part of the One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) network. Formed through a USAID project, the network encourages university student clubs to engage multiple disciplines to solve public health threats which stem from humans and animals sharing an environment together and to equip students with the knowledge, mindset, and skills to work with communities to address infectious diseases, like rabies. Jimma University’s student club was established in October 2015 with 140 students from medicine, veterinary, environmental science, agriculture, and public health sectors. The One Health approach recognizes that the health of animals, humans and the environment are inter-linked. Therefore, confronting health threats requires collaboration across sectors.

To address Ethiopia’s rabies problem, Jimma University’s One Health Student Club initiated a campaign called “Eradicate Rabies in Ethiopia.” Because teenagers care for domestic dogs in most communities in Ethiopia, the campaign decided to educate high school students about rabies.

In its first rabies awareness effort, the student club targeted Seto High School in January 2016, reaching 500 students, mostly 9th and 10th graders. The Jimma University students prepared brochures and posters about the causes, effects, transmission, and control of rabies.

The club members distributed brochures and shared rabies information with their high school counterparts. One of the student club members, Atsede Milashu, read a poem on rabies and its dangers. The Jimma University students also communicated information on the One Health approach to prevent and respond to emerging pandemics.

“Our vision is to reach students from primary to secondary schools informing them about One Health and infectious disease prevention. We believe that students impact their families and communities” said Gelan Kuse, president of the student club.

This is just the first step for the Jimma University student club. They plan to take the rabies campaign nationwide to other communities in Ethiopia, including vaccination control of stray dogs and adding other infectious diseases like tuberculosis, brucellosis and Ebola. Student club members also plan to assist other high schools in initiating their own One Health student clubs to address public health threats at the animal-human-environment interface. Through this process, the student club members are building their skills and competencies in emergency preparedness and response, getting ready to fight the next pandemic.
The One Health Students’ Club at Jimma University organized a two-day seminar on Infectious Disease detection, prevention & response in line with the Global Health Security Agenda, 7th-8th May 2016. The seminar was conducted at Jimma University College of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine Main Hall involving 120 graduate and a few post-graduate students, most of them members of the One Health Student Club. The seminar was given by Prof. Jean Mukherjee, an infectious diseases expert from University of Tufts.

During the seminar, students also received knowledge on how to deliver community outreach activities. This seminar, also delivered by Prof. Jean Mukherjee involved 100 pre-selected One Health Students’ Club members. It intended to build their capacity in delivering infectious disease awareness-raising through community outreach activities. The seminar also involved a group exercise on how to engage communities in addressing their problems.

Some of the community problems picked for the training by participants were rabies, anthrax, zoonotic diseases in general and solid waste management problems.

At the same seminar, Mr. Lemessa Dube from College of Health Sciences, announced a logo competition for Jimma University One Health Student Club and encouraged students to participate.

She delivered a very educative presentation on Introduction to infectious disease in general in line with the objectives of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). Her presentation was followed by a discussion and a movie named ‘Contagion’, focused on infectious disease detection, prevention & response strategies.

The seminar was given by Prof. Jean Mukherjee, an infectious diseases expert from University of Tufts.
A Student’s account of Experiences from the Frontlines of the Rift Valley Fever Outbreak Investigation in Kabale District, Uganda

On 4 March 2016 Uganda’s first case of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) was reported in the Kabale District, about 400 km southwest of Kampala. Although only one other case has been confirmed in Kabale, RVF is a viral disease that can be easily transmitted through infected mosquitoes or contact with infected animals. Since 4 March 2016, rapid response teams have been deployed by the Ministry of Health to respond to the outbreak.

Six One Health Student Club members at Makerere University were chosen to join the rapid response team and have been at the frontlines of the outbreak since 21/03/2016 to 24/03/2016. The One Health students have been trained to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks by the One Health Central and Eastern Africa network with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development’s One Health Workforce project. Upon selection, the Ministry of Health provided additional training to the students as part of its operational response.

On March 18th, 14 days since the first outbreak, students were called to urgently convene at 2pm to leave for Kabale at 6pm. Tonny Tindyebwa, a member of the One Health Students’ Club, based at Makerere University School of Public Health, is one of the students who were part of this investigation. In this post, he shares his experiences.

The morning after we arrived, we had an early morning meeting with the District Task Force, followed by identification of activities to be done. These included mainly social mobilization and surveillance. Multi-sectoral teams were then constituted and assigned duties. We also created a communication platform using WhatsApp.

The next day, Tuesday 22nd, we identified new cases including a truck driver from Burundi. This case caused a lot of panic among residents at the border who mistook the symptoms for those of Marburg.

The rest of our time as part of the investigation team, we mainly took part in case tracking, sample collection, social mobilization, report writing, case management and records review. Illegal structures like slaughter houses/places were also visited and closed, while abattoirs were also inspected.

In the course of executing this assignment, I realized that there are areas that could be improved in future, like the slow response on delivery of the supplies such as PPE which scared medical workers on attending to cases, delay of Laboratory results of the samples collected still put the DTF members in anxiety, slow response of the Alert desk team to requests.

There was also late dispatch of teams to the field, absence of key district political leaders and inadequate transportation facilities like cars, making it problematic for teams to get to the field in time.

There were also challenges with some media houses misinforming communities on the progress of the outbreak investigation, treating suspected cases who had died as confirmed cases.

There are some good practices that I think can be used as lessons and strengthened for future outbreaks. For instance, the population exhibited eagerness to report any suspects basing on signs and symptoms of the disease they had, to the extent that some people just referred themselves to the health workers. Social mobilization was done in creative ways, using currently popular technologies as well as reaching out to specific populations and communities like schools and training institutions.

Key populations we worked with like meat sellers were very responsive in providing information about their counterparts who had exhibited signs and symptoms of RVF.
Although the start was rather slow and worrying due to the slow trickle of students coming in for the meeting, the event turned out quite well, eventually.

University of Rwanda –Nyagatare Campus students on Sunday 5th May 2016 held elections for a new committee for the period 2016/2017. The club brings together students from veterinary medicine, animal production, medicine and health sciences, environmental health/epidemiology, ICT, biomedical engineering and business studies.

The new office bearers are; Serge Muhizi (President), Denise Uwimana (Vice President), Justin Mudacumura (Secretary) and Emmanuel Kagisha (Treasurer). The outgoing committee is expected to convene a meeting and agree on the committee advisors from amongst themselves.

Before the election, students shared their motivation and reasons for joining the One Health Club, which was an interesting and enriching session. Reasons for joining the Club included; One Health being a growing trend in managing global health challenges and cannot be avoided; desire to advocate for gender and women’s involvement in ensuring the health of animals and humans; desire to learn more about the human-animal health interface; contributing to the breaking of working in silos; desire to contribute to management of zoonoses, desire to develop One Health as an area of research; desire to help the community through community outreach services and activities, among other reasons.

The newly-elected team committed to serve the club and ensure that it grows to greater heights.
Universite des Montagnes starts the first One Health Students’ Club in Cameroon

With support from OHCEA, students from Cameroon’s Universite des Montagnes have started what is believed to be the first One Health students’ club in the country. With barely two months since its start, the club boasts of a number of achievements such as:-

- Election of a multidisciplinary executive committee of 8 members consisting of 50% females
- Conducted sensitization on One Health within the student community
- Registration of more than 60 active members
- Creating a WhatsApp group that is used as a platform for sharing One Health information among members
- Setting up a Facebook page for the club
- Development of a draft strategic plan for the club
- Designed a logo for the club

Additionally, the President of the club Mr. Ewondo ndjeng Élisée has been linked with University of Rwanda’s OH Club (UROHSC) members and was added on the club’s WhatsApp group. This enables him to benefit from the rich information shared by UROHSC members, and also share the information with members of his club.

During a visit to Universite des Montagnes in April 2016, the Regional Finance and Administration Manager and Head M&E (OHCEA) together with the Senior Finance Officer for UMN engaged the students to understand their visualization of how the club should progress and what they would wish to implement during year 3 of the OHW. The priority activities identified by the students were: organize seminars / talks on topical issues like Ebola and Zika virus; conduct interdisciplinary debates to enable students appreciate roles played by various disciplines in promoting health; community activities (sensitization and education); training in communication with emphasis on public speaking.
Between April 11th and 15th a multi-disciplinary team of nineteen faculty from OHCEA member institutions and Secretariat staff set out to develop the networks’ draft research agenda and a resource mobilization plan to guide resource mobilization for research projects at a meeting that was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi Kenya. The team comprised specialists in public health, veterinary health, gender, and health systems strengthening. The draft research agenda is grounded in OHCEA’s niche as the only network of Universities in the region under the leadership of Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) and College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB) that works to secure the health of humans, animals and eco-systems through strengthened higher education, using multi-disciplinary teaching and learning practices and environment in Africa- a hotspot of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Participants reflected on diseases of significant public health and economic importance locally, regionally and globally and identified about forty diseases and conditions that were categorized into seven themes recommended to be the focus for One Health research for the coming 5 years. In shaping these themes institutional and country research priorities highlighted by participants and global health concerns as informed by the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) were key references in shaping the research themes. The seven themes include (not in any order):

1. **Bats Transmitted Diseases** including EBOLA; Marburg; MERS; SARS; Nipah Virus
2. **Hemorrhagic fevers** including Rift Valley Fever; Dengue; Zika; CCHF; Lassa fever; Chikungunya; Hanta Virus; Yellow Fever.
3. **Neglected diseases (with emphasis on NTDs)**- Schistosomiasis and Soil Transmitted Helminths; Leishmaniosis; Toxoplasmosis; Leprosy; Onchocerciasis; Trachoma; Cryptosporidium; Leishmaniosis; Lymphatic Filariasis; Toxoplasmosis; African Sleeping Sickness.
4. **Anti-Microbial Resistance** taken broadly to include anti-biotics; multi drug resistance including that associated with HIV; Microbial resistance.
5. **Bio-Security and Bio-Safety** (Bio-Risk Management)
6. **Ecosystem Health - Non Communicable Diseases/ Conditions (including its linkages to food security and food safety)** - Mycotoxicosis; Aflatoxins; Malnutrition; Diabetes; Heart Diseases; Hygiene issues; Pollution.
7. **Endemic Diseases**- Anthrax; Brucellosis; Rabies; Q. fever.

With consensus on the above themes, participants considered the most feasible resource mobilization strategy to sustain and grow resources needed to support One Health research. Drawing on the rich experience of the facilitators, a number of options were elaborated including: (1) Formation of teams around the research themes and utilizing the capacities of faculty within OHCEA member institutions with interest and passion in the themes to write winning research grants. (2) A high level resource mobilization team at the Board level, complemented by people of given stature & specialists to hold targeted discussions with donors/ agencies and (3) Secretariat...
OHCEA sets out to articulate the One Health

coordinated efforts. Focusing on one of the diseases under each theme, six hypothetical concepts were developed on Ebola, Brucellosis, Ecosystem health focusing on pollution, Antimicrobial resistance, biosecurity, and Soil transmitted helmints. These concepts will be fully developed upon securing relevant RFAs. The meeting was facilitated by three experienced researchers with vast research grants mobilization experience. (1) Dr. Innocent Rwego Assistant Professor at the Ecosystem Health Division, College of Veterinary Medicine and Adjunct Instructor, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, USA and Africa Technical Lead USAID One Health Workforce project under EPT II, Eco-health chair IDRC Eco-health research project; (2) Dr. Robinson H. Mdegela, a senior Lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Department of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health. Robinson is an OHCEA Focal Person at SUA and an active researcher in areas related to Ecotoxicology, wildlife conservation and management, public and environmental health who has won several research grants. (3) Dr. Saul Tzipori from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University USA, Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health, a veterinarian who is also involved in diseases of human significant. Saul has over 40 years’ experience working on research projects with funding from diverse sources.

Some of the participants from left- standing: Dr. Shyaka Anselme (National University of Rwanda), Dr. Sarah Saali (Makerere University), Prof. Peter Gatongi (Moi University), Prof. Robinson Mdegela (SUA), Prof. Omer Njajou (Université des Montagnes Cameroun), Prof. Donati Tarimo (Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences), Prof. Mutuku Mwanthi (University of Nairobi, School of Public Health), Dr. Irene Naigaga (OHCEA Secretariat), Dr. Yohannes Tekle Asfaw (Mekelle University Ethiopia), Ms. Winnie Bikaako (OHCEA Secretariat), Prof. Ntambue Mukengeshayi Abel (University of Lubumbashi, DRC) Squatting from left: Mrs. Agnes N.Yawe Kahundha (Secretariat), Mr. Timothy Wakabi (Secretariat) and Dr. Innocent Rwego (University of Minnesota/ Makerere University).

The draft research agenda will undergo stakeholder consultations at country level for enrichment before being tabled to the networks’ governing body for final review and endorsement.

OHCEA Chief Executive Officer Features as Guest Speaker at the Institute of Medicine 2016 Workshop

OHCEA CEO, Professor William Bazeyo was a guest speaker at the 2016 Institute of Medicine (IOM) workshop on ‘The Role of Accreditation in Enhancing Quality and Innovation in Health Professions Education’. The meeting took place April 21st and 22nd at the Keck Center of the National Academies in Washington DC.

The objective of the workshop was to set a foundation of understanding what accreditation is; what can and cannot be realistically accomplished through accreditation; and what is driving the calls to change accreditation (e.g., costs, need to promote innovation, inter professional approaches, among others). The meeting brought together participants from health professional educators, accreditors, and others to explore a number of topics including, “Innovative Models of Accreditation: One Health Accreditation across Nations”. Under this theme, Professor Bazeyo, gave a presentation on One Health Accreditation where he shared the One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) model of raising future One Health Leaders in eight African Countries. He underscored the opportunities and challenges to acceptable accreditation from a One Health perspective. This was followed by a panel of discussants where a brief description of the One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) institutional network and the One Health Workforce program were highlighted. Discussions ranged from challenges and opportunities of the One Health model as a basis for accreditation across professions, mapping One Health competencies across programmatic levels (undergraduate, post-graduate) and designing outcome
OHCEA network recognizes that gender equity and empowerment must be considered in all stages of any program design, and is committed to ensuring that social and gender integration is identified as a high priority at institutional, country and regional levels. Gender roles, the distribution of labor, access and control over resources play an important part in the biosecurity, control, prevention and response to infectious diseases and emerging pandemics. Gender inequalities interact with other inequalities such as ethnicity, socio-economics class and age. Therefore gender differences need to be addressed to better understand the risks and to help develop effective control and response strategies. The OHCEA network institutions will use a holistic approach to create more favorable incentives and structures for equitable development and assist country offices to design and implement gender-balanced and socially sensitive programs with lasting value. The secretariat will support the awareness-building and knowledge-strengthening activities and training needed to integrate gender considerations into all aspects of programming. As part of the strategy the network is working to:

1) Develop a gender strategy and policy that will guide the implementation of activities and ensure gender and cultural equality are central to activities, organizational culture and public image assessments that demonstrate mastery of One Health requirements. Some of the key discussion questions included, how country and regional One Health requirements are harmonized, if accreditation systems are established for professions, how One Health dimension is integrated and how the OHCEA One Health model of collaboration can be applied to meet the needs of work force development.

2) Ensure that gender as a strategic concept is included as an analytical and planning tool and that One Health skills and competencies are engendered.

3) Create a gender integration training curriculum that weaves and fully integrates the key principles of gender equality and gender analysis throughout the program. As part of this OHCEA is developing capacity of faculty to carry out gender analysis through training. Rather than being seen as an ‘add-on’, gender considerations will be woven into all stages of the program cycle.

4) Mainstream gender across institutions with students and faculty to include faculty development, curricula design, and teaching and learning methods and project monitoring and evaluation processes.

5) Develop a gender and infectious disease facilitator manual, as well as a collection of practical, user-friendly tools, resources and training material to support networks and their partners in integrating gender equity into daily project activity tasks while supporting a systematic and credible analysis on the gender implications of emerging diseases and pandemic crisis in different socio-economic and cultural contexts.

6) Identify gender gaps and work to mainstream gender considerations in all activities including faculty
Gender mainstreaming in OHCEA network

A team of gender champions formed a network within OHCEA on March 14, 2016 at Holiday Inn in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This was during a 5-day trainer of trainers (TOT) workshop on Gender, One Health and Infectious Disease. The workshop brought together 15 faculty from the seven OHCEA countries and 3 OHCEA Secretariat Staff. Participants were drawn from different disciplines including veterinary medicine, human medicine, nursing, public health, environmental health and social sciences. The workshop facilitators were gender experts namely Dr. Hellen Amuguni from Tufts University, Ms. Niyati Shah, the USAID Senior Technical Advisor on gender and Prof Anthony Mugisha, Dean at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-diversity (COVAB).

Participants were exposed to highly interactive training methodologies that ensured full participant engagement, manifested cultural diversity and questioned gender biases and stereotypes. With simulation and case study development, participants demonstrated the knowledge gained at the workshop on outbreak detection, prevention and response. Social media was made use of; Dr. Sarah Ssali, a gender expert at Makerere University posted tweets of the interactive processes, while Agnes Yawe set up a group page using WhatsApp for the network members to interact after the workshop. At the end of the workshop, participants drew country action plans which shall be shared with the OHCEA country teams, with the aim of devising strategies of implementing plans. The Secretariat staff too, prepared a regional work plan that will guide the process of mainstreaming gender across the network and institutionalizing gender through development of a gender policy, strategy and monitoring and evaluation indicators. To initiate the process of integrating gender in OHCEA work, some participants shall be invited to the OH modules development workshop scheduled for May 9-13, 2016 to engender the modules. The facilitators provided a Facilitator Guide, which they refined during the TOT, to each participant to guide the planned country gender-related activities for students and faculty.