



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFRICA ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AFROHUN)

YEAR 2

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

DRC (CONGO)



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This publication was prepared by the AFROHUN secretariat headquartered at Plot 16A, Elizabeth Avenue, Kampala Uganda.

www.afrohun.org
16A, Elizabeth Avenue
P.O.Box 100953
Kampala Uganda

EDITORS

AFROHUN SECRETARIAT

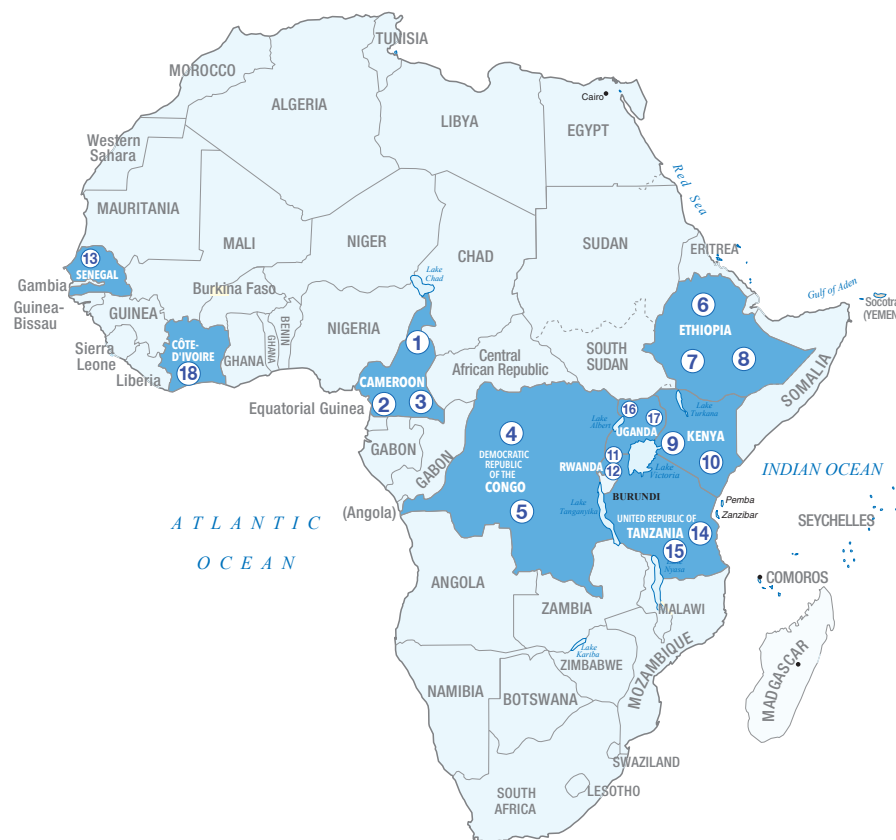
Elizabeth Alunguru, William Bazeyo, Winnie Bikaako, Irene Naigaga, Sarah Nannyanzi, Milly Nattimba, Timothy Wakabi, and Agnes Yawe

CONTENT

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In particular, we would like to extend special thanks to AFROHUN (AFRICA ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK) and the member institutions as shown in the map below.



Current AFROHUN Network Reach

CAMEROON

1. Université des Montagnes
2. University of Buea
3. University of Ngaoundéré

DR CONGO

4. University of Kinshasa
5. University of Lubumbashi

ETHIOPIA

6. Jimma University
7. University of Addis Ababa
8. Mekelle University

KENYA

9. University of Nairobi
10. Moi University

RWANDA

11. University of Rwanda
12. University of Global Health Equity

SENEGAL

13. Université Cheikh Anta Diop

TANZANIA

14. Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences
15. Sokoine Univ. of Agriculture

UGANDA

16. Mbarara University of Science & Technology
17. Makerere University

CÔTE-D'IVOIRE

18. Félix Houphouët-Boigny

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Democratic Republic of CONGO



Africa One Health University Network



COUNTRY CHAPTER



2

MEMBER
INSTITUTIONS



2

STUDENT
ONE HEALTH
INNOVATION
CLUBS



500,000

INDIVIDUALS
REACHED VIA RCCE
ACTIVITIES RELATED
TO COVID-19



30

INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED RELATED
TO COVID-19



155

INDIVIDUALS WHO
PARTICIPATED IN
OHW-NG ACTIVITIES



13

ACTIVITIES
PLANNED FOR
YEAR 2



5

ACTIVITIES
COMPLETED OR
ON-GOING

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported the National Public Health Institute (NPHI) in creating a community-based surveillance training module based on the Ebola outbreak (March 2021; see AFR-33 for more information).
- Received a sub-award to support Master of Public Health scholarships for 30 government fellows coming from the human and animal health sectors (20 for the Community Health track and 10 Health Economics track) (Y2Q2; see AFR-33 for more information).
- Trained 40 faculty from five departments at the KSPH on OH core competencies and how to integrate OH in their training modules (December 2020 - March 2021; see AFR-36 and AFR-39 for more information).
- Supported the integration of an introduction to OH module in all tracks of the MPH program (December 2020 - March 2021; see AFR-36 and AFR-39 for more information).
- Trained 30 health journalists from the public and private sectors on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) focusing on COVID-19 (February 2021; see AFR-33 for more information).
- Reached an estimated 500,000 people through COVID-19 RCCE activities via radio, television and newspapers (February 2021; see health journalist training activity for more information).

ACTIVITIES

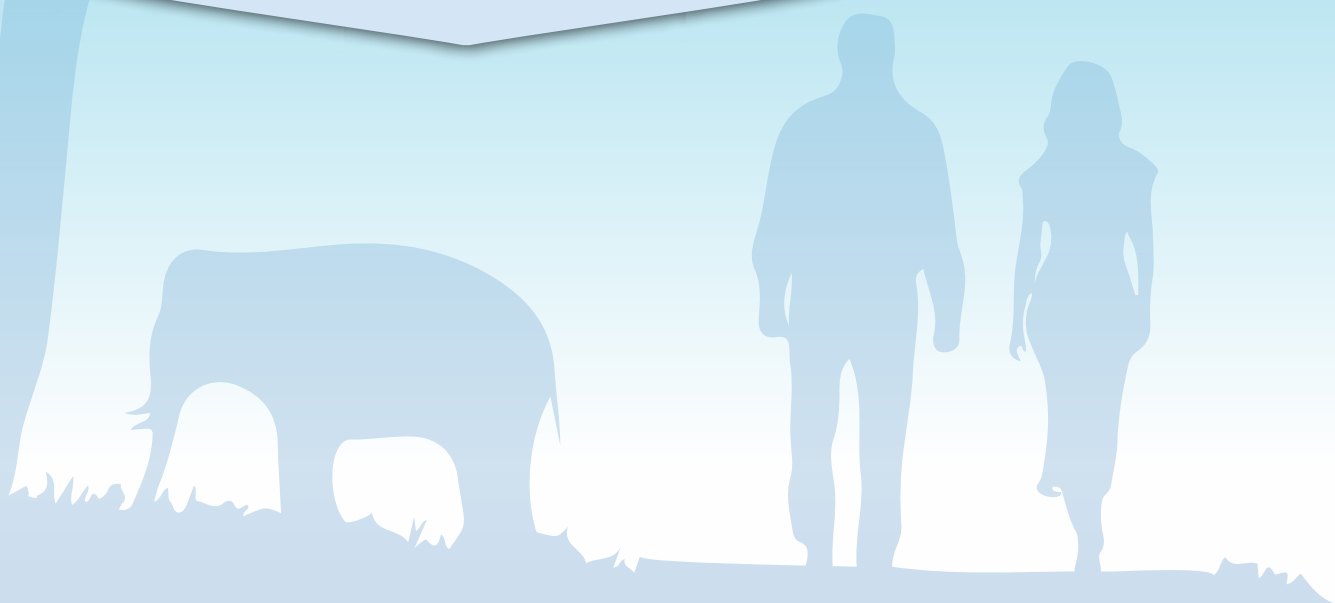
OBJECTIVE 1
TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT



OBJECTIVE 2
ASSESSMENT AND TRACKING



OBJECTIVE 3
ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY



1

OBJECTIVE 1 TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT

AFROHUN DRC supported the National Public Health Institute to develop a community-based Ebola virus disease (EVD) surveillance training module (CD activity 1.1.6). The module follows the WHO Africa Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response 3 (IDRS) guidelines and is aimed at improving coordination and information sharing using a One Health approach. The module, which will help community health workers collect information for humans and animals, was developed by officials from the Ministries of Public Health and Animal Health supported by AFROHUN faculty. Through this activity, collaboration was improved between experts from the human and animal health sectors. The module will be piloted during a training for community health workers in Mbandaka province.

Using additional funding received from the USAID Mission in DRC, we awarded 30 MPH scholarships (10 females and 20 males) to professionals working for the government in the human and animal health sectors (CD activity 1.1.8). As part of ensuring sustainability, AFROHUN DRC worked with the OHW-NG global team to train 40 faculty from five departments of the Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) on OH core competencies and how they integrate OH in their training modules. An introduction to OH module has been integrated in all tracks of the KSPH MPH program.

Research done by KSPH during the COVID-19 response showed that mass media was the most common initial source of information people received on COVID-19, and yet most journalists covering the pandemic were not trained on response guidelines. To address this gap, we trained 30 journalists from the public and the private sectors on RCCE (CD activity 1.3.4). This training was facilitated by a team of trainers from the National Health communication program, Ministry of Media and Communication, COVID-19 response communication unit, and faculty of KSPH. The training included one day in the field where participants held interviews with community members, local leaders and response experts to



DRC 2: Participants pose for a group photo during the community-based surveillance module development in Kinshasa, DRC. Photo source: AFROHUN DRC.

Personal protective equipment, distancing, and group size standards in this photo were consistent with local public health guidance and COVID-19 status in the specific country and time it was taken. This may not reflect best practices for all locations where COVID-19 is still spreading.

address some of the fake information on COVID-19 that was circulating in the community. As an outcome of this training, a team of trained journalists was created by the national health communication program which can be used and mobilized when needed to support RCCE activities.



DRC 3: Group discussion by a section of participants who attended the training for journalists on RCCE in Kinshasa DRC. Photo source: AFROHUN DRC.

Personal protective equipment, distancing, and group size standards in this photo were consistent with local public health guidance and COVID-19 status in the specific country and time it was taken. This may not reflect best practices for all locations where COVID-19 is still spreading.

Development of DRC’s national One Health Strategic Plan

AFROHUN DRC is supporting the National OH platform: Comité de Coordination Une Santé (CCUS) to establish the national strategic and operational plans (CD activity 1.5.3). This followed a request by the Government to CCUS to develop a One Health Strategic Plan that will align partners’ activities with the national OH policy. AFROHUN is working with other GHSA partners including FAO, WHO, and Breakthrough Action to provide technical support. Once completed, the plan will align all activities related to OH in DRC.

2

OBJECTIVE 2 ASSESSMENT AND TRACKING

For more information on how AFROHUN contributes to One Health Workforce assessment and tracking, please refer to the Secretariat section, Pg. AFR-14.

3

OBJECTIVE 3 ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Year 2 kick-off meeting

Before commencement of implementation of Year 2 (2020-2021) activities, a kick-off meeting was organized to assess the implementation of Year 1 (2019-2020) activities, identify challenges, and draw on lessons learned in order to improve on implementation in Year 2 (2020-2021). This 2-day meeting was facilitated by the AFROHUN regional secretariat staff and attended by Deans, USAID mission staff, the National OH platform members, Activity Leads and faculty. A key deliverable of the meeting was the development of the activity implementation schedules which were shared and discussed with participants.



LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICES

STRENGTHENING THE PIPELINE OF OH PROFESSIONALS IN DRC

During the COVID-19 pandemic political leaders and funders recognized the importance of a collaborative effort to improve surveillance and response to infectious disease outbreaks. With support from USAID DRC, 30 scholarships were provided to government officials to pursue Master of Public Health degrees at the KSPH. Leveraging on the expertise in the OHW-NG consortium and making use of technology, we built capacity among 40 faculty of KSPH on integration of OH into training modules. In addition, an introduction to OH module was integrated into all the MPH tracks at KSPH with a plan to incorporate OH core competencies in the future. This will strengthen the pipeline of OH professionals in the country and improve the surveillance and response capacities in line with the JEE. The use of online platforms, such as Zoom, facilitated bringing together expertise from local and regional experts as well as experts from the OHW-NG consortium to collaboratively build capacity of faculty and integrate OH into the MPH tracks.



NEXT STEPS

We shall continue dedicating our efforts toward strengthening the pipeline of OH professionals in DRC through:

- ⦿ Provision of OH trainings to community health workers using the OH community-based surveillance module developed during the reporting period. This module will be used by all the partners including WHO and CDC to train community health workers.
- ⦿ Conducting field-based learning activities (OH Demosite) with pre-service students coming from different academic disciplines.
- ⦿ Delivery of an introduction to One Health training module by KSPH which is starting this academic year (2020-2021).

These activities will help to build the next generation of the OH workforce not only at the national or subnational levels but also at the community level.



ONE HEALTH CHAMPION



Photo source: AFROHUN DRC



“The One Health approach is very critical for the country. The good thing is both national authorities and partners understood this and everyone is trying to catch and build onto this approach to bring all the sectors together for better health of humans, animals and our shared environment.”

Prof. Nadege Ngombe Kabamba

Coordinator of the “Comité de Coordination Une Santé”



ONE HEALTH CHAMPION



Photo source: AFROHUN DRC

“Today more than ever, pandemics are teaching us lessons of humility and unity. During this pandemic period, we are seeing how countries are struggling to contain the pandemic with consequences not only on health but most importantly of economies and livelihoods. We have to come together under the One Health approach to create sustainable information sharing and early warning systems at the human animal interface, so that we can prevent, detect early and respond to pandemics.”

Dr. Marc Yambayamba

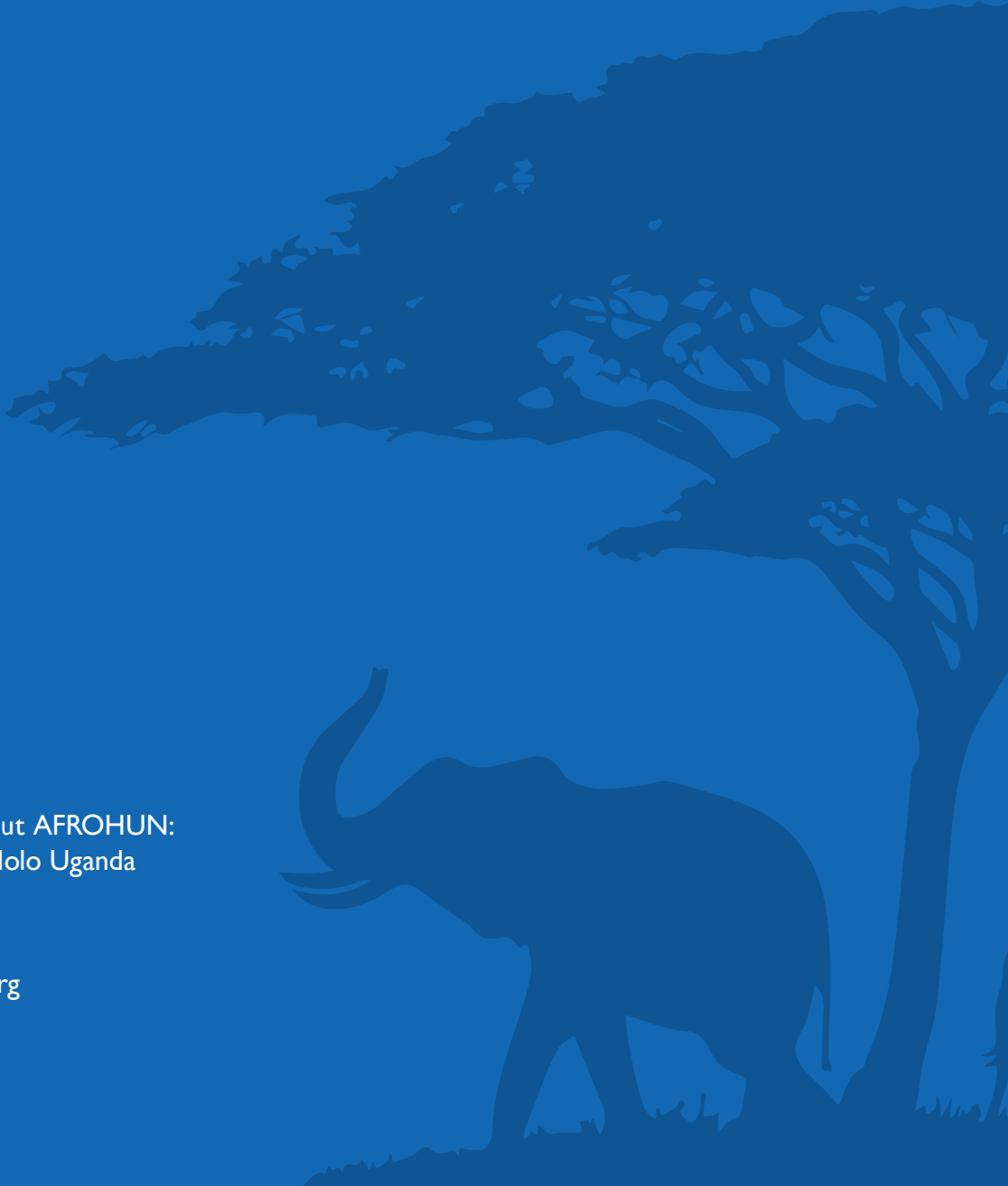
AFROHUN DRC Country Manager

SUCCESS STORY

INTEGRATING OH CORE COMPETENCIES IN THE TRAINING CURRICULA USING ONLINE SESSIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for skilled One Health professionals to work at the national and subnational levels. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, DRC has faced 12 Ebola outbreaks since 1976 which have impacted the economy and people's livelihoods. With support from the OHW-NG project, the Kinshasa School of Public Health (KSPH) integrated OH components into its Master of Public Health training curriculum. KSPH is a public institution and first public health training institution of the country which supports the workforce capacity building component of the Ministry of Health.

With restrictions in place limiting in-person interaction due to COVID-19, an online workshop was organized to train KSPH faculty on how to integrate OH competencies in their training modules. These sessions covered five themes (introduction to OH, OH core competencies, mapping OH core competencies into courses, field-based activities, and evaluation strategies). Other topics discussed included the application of OH approaches for surveillance and response to pandemics, AMR, gender and OH, problem-based learning, and the One Health Workforce Academy. Facilitated by local and regional experts as well as experts from the OHW-NG Global Consortium, the training benefitted 40 faculty of KSPH. The trained faculty will be instrumental in integrating OH core competencies into the MPH training modules.



For More Information about AFROHUN:
16A Elizabeth Avenue, Kololo Uganda
P.O Box 100953 Kampala

☎ +256 392 001 642

✉ secretariat@afrohun.org

🌐 www.afrohun.org

🐦 @AFROHUN_



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