



Strengthening Tanzania’s One Health Workforce Through a Fee-Based CPD OH Course

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Introduction

Tanzania faces an urgent and growing challenge at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. Rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased human-wildlife interaction exacerbate health risks, including zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and pandemics like COVID-19. Globally, an estimated 60% of emerging infectious diseases originate from animals, and over 70% of zoonotic diseases are transmitted from wildlife. In Tanzania, zoonotic diseases such as anthrax, rabies, and Rift Valley fever continue to threaten public health, livestock productivity, and biodiversity. These challenges highlight the critical need for a well-trained, multidisciplinary workforce capable of addressing complex health threats through a One Health approach.

The challenge of skilled workforce

However, a severe shortage of skilled One Health professionals limits Tanzania’s ability to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to these interconnected health threats.

Recognizing this gap, AFROHUN Tanzania, with partial support

from USAID through the One Health Workforce -Next Generation Project, developed a transformative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course: “Tackling Complex Health Issues Using the One Health Approach”. It is an innovative, fee-based Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course that equips in-service professionals from diverse sectors—human health, animal health, environmental science, laboratory science, and wildlife—with the skills and knowledge needed to address emerging health challenges.

Launched in 2022 with members of professional bodies, the course runs over a period of 5 days and is offered at a cost of 600,000 TZS (approximately \$260). This fee underscores the course’s value in providing high-quality,

multidisciplinary training while generating income for the partner institutions.

Uniquely designed with a multi-sectoral focus, the course integrates didactic teaching and experiential learning to foster the practical application of One Health principles. Hosted collaboratively by MUHAS (Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences) and SUA (Sokoine University of Agriculture), it not only strengthens the capacity of individual professionals to address complex health issues but also contributes to institutional sustainability through revenue generation.

Since its inception, the course has attracted growing interest, with 9 participants in the first cohort of 2023 and 17 in the second cohort of 2024. This momentum



CPD course participants on a team building exercise

reflects increasing recognition of the course's value in building Tanzania's One Health workforce. The program has delivered measurable outcomes, equipping professionals with the skills and confidence needed to address complex health challenges.

Participants reported significant improvements in their professional capabilities:

Licensing and Professional Readiness: Veterinary Officer Onesmo Mandike from Arusha successfully met his licensing requirements through the course. By self-funding his participation, he not only achieved compliance but also gained valuable skills to address Tanzania's evolving health challenges. Mandike emphasized that the course not only enhanced his expertise but also prepared him to contribute meaningfully to a robust One Health workforce, stating, *"The OH CPD course is a very useful program, not only for improving participants' knowledge and skills but also for preparing a strong One Health workforce for Tanzania."*

Enhanced Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Medical Laboratory Technologist Zacharia Magoye from Rombo District Council developed a deeper appreciation for interdisciplinary teamwork. Interacting with peers from diverse sectors, including agriculture, livestock, and the environment, enhanced his ability to apply a holistic approach to problem-solving. His participation has inspired him to advocate for the course as a critical tool in strengthening Tanzania's One Health capacity.

Integration of One Health Concepts in Academia: Nurse education specialist Neema Mawi from MUHAS leveraged the course to integrate

One Health principles into her institution's academic programs. Equipped with interactive tools and case studies, she is now fostering a new generation of professionals who can apply One Health concepts in their practice. "This course has deepened my interest in One Health. I am committed to building capacity among others and serving as an ambassador for this transformative approach," she stated. Mawi's advocacy has paved the way for institutional capacity building in Tanzania.

Strengthened Emergency Response and Field Resilience: Peter Tungu, a professional from Moshi District, highlighted the course's practical applications in addressing pressing health emergencies such as antimicrobial resistance, COVID-19, and Rift Valley fever. The program's emphasis on intersectoral collaboration and systems thinking has equipped him with the skills to respond to health challenges more effectively.

The One Health CPD course has demonstrated its potential to close Tanzania's workforce capacity gap by equipping professionals with practical skills to detect, prevent, and respond to emerging health threats. The participants' experiences underscore the program's transformative impact, not just for individual careers but for the nation's public health landscape. By fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and building a strong One Health workforce, Tanzania is paving the way for a more resilient health system.

With continued support, this fee-based model could expand its reach, empowering more professionals and driving sustainable solutions to complex health challenges.

ABOUT AFROHUN

[Africa One Health University Network \(AFROHUN\)](#) is an international network, currently in 28 higher education institutions of public health, veterinary medicine, pathobiology, environmental sciences, medicine and global health, in 10 countries in Africa. The countries are *Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda*. AFROHUN is formerly OHCEA.

AFROHUN is working to transform the training environment and approaches in universities and allied institutions in Africa, to develop a One Health workforce: a workforce with no disciplinary boundaries. AFROHUN is building a workforce with competency to predict, detect and respond to the kind of complex health challenges we are witnessing today. To achieve this transformation, we are reviewing curricula, designing new and exciting experiential learning multidisciplinary training programs, re-tooling teachers and trainers, educating communities on existence and transmission of zoonotic and infectious diseases, while engaging national and sub-national governments to integrate One Health into national policy and strategic planning.

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