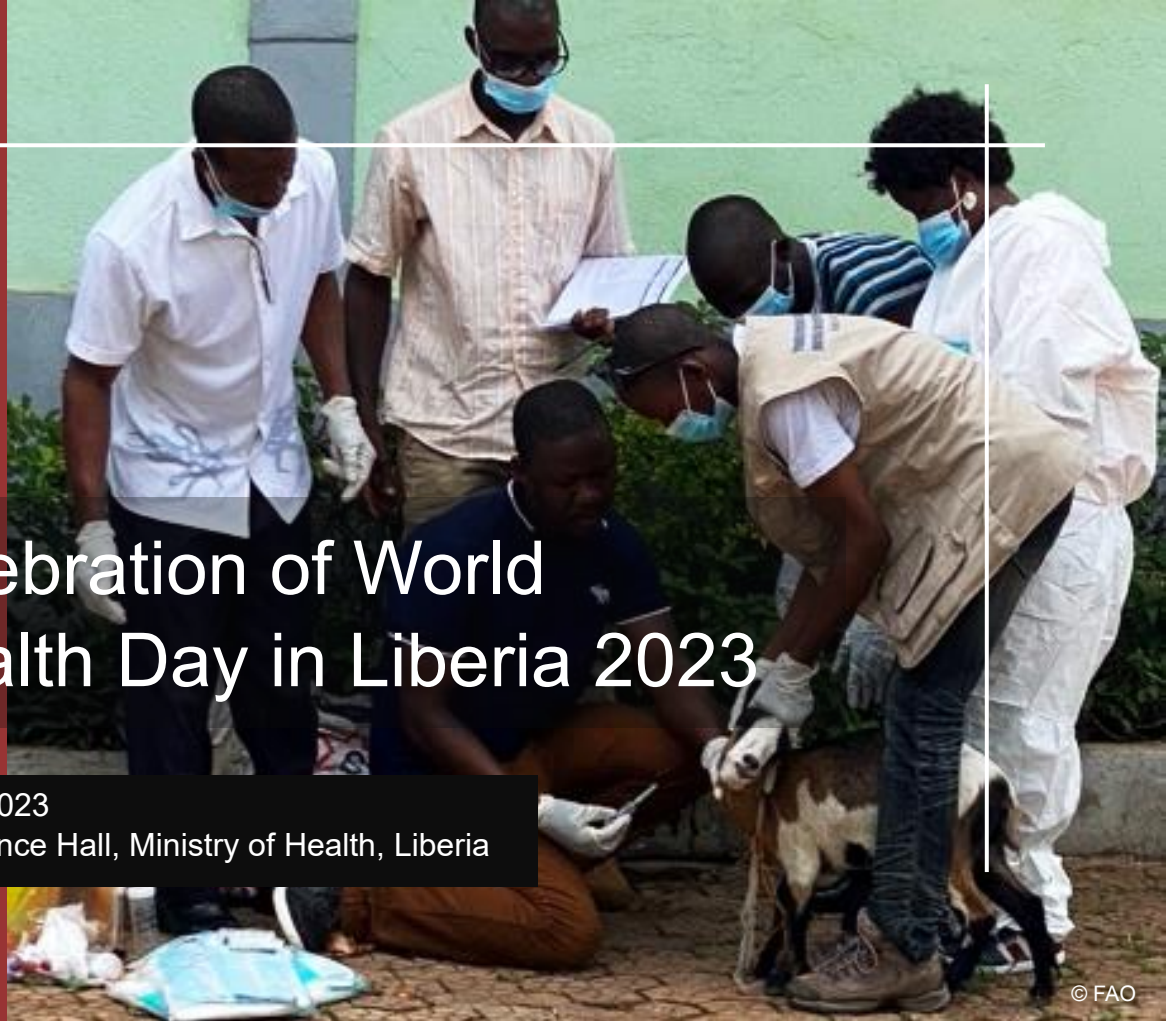


Report

The Celebration of World One Health Day in Liberia 2023

Date: 3 November 2023

Venue: The Conference Hall, Ministry of Health, Liberia



Introduction

One Health Day, an international initiative since April 2016, aims to balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems, recognizing their interdependent nature. One Health Day advocates for a holistic, trans-disciplinary approach to global health challenges, moving beyond provincial approaches to address emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and environmental pollution.

The One Health celebration, focused on **"Connecting Air, Land, and Water,"** underscores the importance of integrating human, animal, and environmental health to address global challenges. One Health Day 2023 was celebrated in Montserrado county on November 3rd, featuring presentations on One Health's significance, achievements, and outcomes, as well as panel discussions on other health events.

General Objective

The aim was to enhance human, animal and environmental health and well-being by advancing awareness and understanding of the One Health concept and building networks that provide opportunities for collaboration among many public and private sectors and health-related disciplines and institutions.

Specific Objectives

- To share the concept of One Health knowledge with line ministries and agencies representatives, school authorities and individuals from different backgrounds
- To expand the trans-disciplinary network and understanding of the diversity of One Health sciences and perspectives.
- To create prospect for developing, organizing, coordinating and collaborating with universities and other health teaching institutions for a compelling and appealing One Health awareness and educational program
- To motivate key stakeholders and health authorities to make their own efforts in creating a healthy and enabling environment.

Activities

The event was held in hybrid format, with participants present both physically and on-line through zoom provided by FAO, Liberia. (See the ANNEX for the programme of the event.)

Indoor Program

On 3 November 2023 in Montserrado county, an indoor program was held at the Ministry of Health, Congo Town office to commemorate the 8th World One Health Day. Representatives from line ministries, agencies, universities, and non-governmental agencies (development partners) attended the program. During the occasion, presentations were made on the significance of One Health and achievements in Liberia, outcome of One Health profiling for Liberia, One Health in Conservation, Air and Water Pollution in the environmental context, and panel discussions.

Welcome Remark

Mr Sonpon B. Sieh on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health welcomed all participants and distinguished guest and highlighted the vital need of a transdisciplinary approach, collaborative strategy to address pressing global health issues. The One Health Coordination Platform, he continued, has been established to lead an active multisectoral approach at both the national and sub-national levels across all sectors when addressing critical health and related health issues because one person, organization, or sector cannot address issues at the animal-human-environment interface alone.

Opening remarks

Dr Ibrahim G. Ahmed, FAO-ECTAD Country Team Lead (CTL) speaking on behalf of the FAO Country Representative for Liberia, Bintia S. Tchicaya mentioned that One Health is not new, but it has become more important in recent years due to factors contributing to changed interactions between people, animals, plants, and our environment, which have led to changes in climate and land use, such as deforestation and intensive farming practices, disruptions in

environmental conditions, the spread of existing or known (endemic) and new or emerging diseases between animals and people. He said this day has come to once more remind stakeholders across the public and private sectors of the importance of working together to address One Health issues include emerging, re-emerging, and endemic zoonotic diseases, neglected tropical diseases, vector-borne diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and food security, environmental contamination, climate change and other health threats shared by people, animals, and the environment. Furthermore, the 2023 Joint External Evaluation conducted indicates the need for an active, functional, and sustainable integrated system across all relevant IHR sectors at national and subnational levels to inform a robust multisectoral collaborative implementation.



FAO-ECTAD Country Team Lead, Dr Ibrahim G. Ahmed delivered Opening Remark on behalf of FAO Representative a.i., Madam Bintia Stephen Tchicaya.

Other partners presented equally the importance of interconnectedness in terms of implementation across sectors and creating awareness, education and providing understanding to the public on the importance of one health approach.

Presentations During World One Health Day

Three (3) technical presentations were made:

- (a) Presenting the results of the May 2022 One Health Profiling for Liberia, Dr Nzietchueng Serge, the regional One Health Specialist for FAO, focused on the function of the novel One Health Monitoring Tool (OHMT). With all stakeholders now having access to the One Health Country Profiling, the OHMT assist in identifying gaps and facilitating well-informed solutions utilizing a One Health approach he said.
- (b) The sharing of data on the status of some water sample tested by the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia showed the interconnectedness of the environment and public health as well as human health.
- (c) Gains achieved in implementing One Health in Conservation-focused initiatives were described by EchoHealth Alliance. Some of the interventions implemented were demonstrated as follow: community engagement and involvement aimed at enabling residents to cultivate fruit crops; tourism focused on constructing a One Health Conservation center; building human resource capacity in terms of One Health; and raising awareness.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion with significant contributions, remarks and questions by the participants.



Panel Discussion on One Health Issues at the Human, Animal and Environment Interface

Vote of Thanks and Closing

Mr Eddie Farngalo on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture concluded the session by reiterating the importance of collaboration, coordination, and communication amongst partners involved in environmental, human, and animal health as well as other relevant fields. These elements are critical to the One Health strategy. He went on to say that by cooperating, we can make the greatest difference in enhancing the health of humans, animals, plants, and our common environment. Finally, he appreciated everyone for responding to the invitation and tireless support and work done in the propagation of the One Health concept.



2023 World One Health Day Group Photo



FAO Liberia News Release: Promoting Transdisciplinary Approach on World One Health Day in Liberia (06/11/2023)
<https://www.fao.org/liberia/news/detail-events/en/c/1661535/>

ANNEX: Programme of the Event

DATE: 3 November 2023

VENUE: Ministry of Health, Congo Town, Monrovia

Moderator: Mr Oliver Jah

Time	Description	Responsible Person (s)
09.00 am – 09.30 am	Arrival of all Guests and Participants	All
09.30 am – 09.35 am	Welcome Remark	OHP
09.35 am – 09.45 am	Group Picture	All
09.45 am – 10.10 am	Opening Remarks	US-CDC; USAID; WHO; FAO NaFAA; FDA; NPHIL; EPA; MOA; MOH
10.10 am – 10.25 am	Presentation 1: Significance of One Health and Achievements in Liberia - the 2023 JEE Results	Mr Sonpon Blamo Sieh, Snr. One Health Coordinator Liberia One Health Platform
10.25 am – 10.40 am	Presentation 2: Outcome of One Health Profiling for Liberia	Mr Nzietchueng Serge One Health Specialist FAO
10.40 am – 10.55 am	Presentation 3: One Health in Conservation	Mr Jackson Poultonor One Health Officer EchoHealth Alliance
10.55 am – 11.10 am	Presentation 4: Air and Water Pollution	Mr Levi Piah and Mr Joseph Charles Environmental Protection Agency EPA, Liberia
11.10 am – 11.50 am	Panel Discussion/ Questions and Comments	Presenters/panelist
11.50 am – 12.00 pm	Official Launch of Liberia One Health Website	Mr Sonpon Blamo Sieh, Snr. One Health Coordinator Liberia One Health Platform
12.00 pm – 12.10 pm	Vote of Thanks/Closing	Mr Eddie M. Farngalo Director EPI Unit MOA
12.10 pm	Lunch and departure	All

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