Our work with journalists around the world reveals that the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and alerts of accelerated movement towards the sixth mass extinction have spurred an unprecedented interest in the One Health approach, which recognizes that the health of humans, animals, plants and the wider environment are all inextricably linked and interdependent.

Informed, powerful journalism on One Health topics can shape global and local agendas and mobilize remedial actions by policy makers and the public alike. Internews's Earth Journalism Network and Health Journalism Network work in synergy to promote quality reportage and storytelling of One Health.

The path to One Health is beset with conflicting interests and so requires journalists to investigate how commercial interests such as mining companies and their activities can adversely affect the health of communities in the neighborhood. Journalists also need to be able to identify and call out 'greenwashing' attempts by extractive businesses that harm the environment.

"One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach — working at the local, regional, national, and global levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment." (CDC)

Internews training for journalists cultivates big-picture thinking about priority challenges to One Health

For over 20 years, Internews has been working with media and research partners in 180 countries to transform the way journalists report on health, climate, and environmental science. We equip journalists with the skills to make sense of rapidly evolving research and turn data into compelling stories that connect to audiences. We build trust in reliable sources and the most trusted channels of information to dispel misinformation. We also support media and civil society organizations (CSOs) to watchdog environmental and health policies, to hold authorities to account and promote action for community wellbeing.

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I recently attended an EJN webinar on Lassa Fever and Nipah Virus. I learnt a lot about the Lassa Fever in Liberia, including the reasons for the frequent outbreaks of this zoonotic disease. The webinar was a very good learning opportunity for journalists like me.

-Ojuku Silver-tongue Kangar, Jr, Liberian journalist

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Internews e-courses, webinars and toolkits for journalists include:

A Journalist's Guide to Covering and Implementing the One Health Approach in Reporting

From animals to humans: An online course to report on zoonotic diseases and their environmental origins

Two Viral Zoonotic Diseases Journalists Should Know About: A Webinar on Lassa Fever and Nipah Virus

One-Health Toolkit: Reporting on Monkeypox

Using data to investigate zoonotic diseases: A tutorial for journalists

Click the links above or scan this code with your phone:
An understanding of One Health begins with recognizing the intrinsic value of living beings in all their diversity. One Health is an economic, labour, race, class, and justice issue. One Health stories need to explore the concerns opportunities and rights within the planetary ecology of animals, humans, and natural resources. We believe also there is a duty to foreground rarely heard community voices and environments under threat.

The consequences of climate change in the form of pandemics, flooding, drought, loss of habitats, food insecurity and migration of humans and animals are already self-evident. By framing climate change as an immediate, intersectional issue whose consequences on health are already being felt, journalists can catalyse the decisions people make in responding to it.

Conspiracy theories and mis- and disinformation can erode critical thinking. As a result, audiences may not grasp the severity of One Health challenges. By generating several evidence-based stories on One Health, journalists can replace fiction with fact.

Widening the accountability for health beyond the narrow clinical confines of the health sector to encompass diverse domains such as climate science, wildlife trade, deforestation or urban planning offers exciting, but also uncharted thematic areas for journalists. Our approach to supporting journalists to produce One Health stories of high quality is based on six broad principles: