Communicating One Health: A toolkit for building community resilience.
Chapter 1:
The concept of One Health: Unity is strength.
Do you know that 60% of pathogens that cause human diseases originate from domestic animals or wildlife or that 75% of emerging infectious human diseases have an animal origin? Moreover, Human actions have severely altered 75% of terrestrial environments and 66% of marine environments.
Recent international health emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic, mpox, Ebola outbreaks, and continued threats of other zoonotic diseases, food safety, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) challenges, as well as ecosystem degradation and climate change clearly demonstrate the need for resilient health systems and accelerated global action.

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

This is the formal definition described by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) in 2021. The reality is that the One Health approach is currently being reviewed by professionals from very different sectors, including human health, animal health, environmental health but also lawyers, economists and other professions who are impacted by this approach and must know how to implement it. Among them are Information producers for whom this Tool Kit is focused, with the aim of assisting them to report on One health issues especially as it relates to the prevention of emergencies and disasters.

The One Health approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together. Collaboration fosters well-being and tackles threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.
One Health: An approach that builds resilience against emergencies and disasters.

To understand and go deeper in the OH approach and how it can help to prevent emergencies and disasters, we organized a live meeting in which Natalia Casas, vet and member of One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) explained to a broad audience the One health approach and how it works, providing examples of diseases that affect human health, animal health, environmental health, biodiversity like Rabies or Hydatidosis / Echinococcosis.

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The event was moderated by Alison Kentish, Science and Health Journalist with the participation of Ashley Lashley, Executive Director The Ashley Lashley Foundation, Mr. Glenroy Toussaint, Local Government Commissioner, Dominica, and Dr. Laura Lee Boodram, Head of the Caribbean Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (CR-FELTP), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).
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You can watch the live event video here!

SEE VIDEO
CALL TO ACTION

The guide will help you to think about:

- How the environment impacts your rights as children
- Laws and agreements that protect the planet
- How to talk to other children about their environment
- How to report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child about your right to a healthy and safe environment

We know children are the most vulnerable to environmental threats, yet they are often not heard. In this Tool Kit we want to give voice to the most vulnerable and are glad to share this guide with the advice from children aged 12-18 and with funding support from Terre des Hommes Germany.

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