

Inter-institutional collaboration for training and research in One Health: the experiences of CCM and CISAO_University of Turin

D. Rana¹, A. Montanari¹, L. Tomassone², D. De Meneghi²

¹Comitato Collaborazione Medica; ²Department of Veterinary Science, CISAO_ UniTO, University of Turin

In order to improve the effectiveness of the One Health approach, there is a need to establish a better sectorial balance between existing groups and networks, in particular between veterinarians and medical doctors, animal and human health workers. Moreover, it is essential ensuring the participation of local communities and experts of the environmental and wildlife protection sectors, as well as sociologists, institutional decision-makers and experts in sustainable development. For this reason, CCM begun to address these interrelations in 2005, particularly dealing with the health of nomadic pastoralists from Ethiopia through the project "One Medicine". These populations migrate, following their livestock, searching for grazing land. Their well-being and livelihood are closely linked to their livestock, which is their only source of wealth. By moving around, they improve the environment and mitigate desertification. The existing system of health delivery service is static and health officers face several difficulties in reaching these nomadic communities and providing them proper care. The multidisciplinary One Health approach allows us to offer a service that deals with both human and animal health, through people duly trained for each village: the Community Health Workers and the Community Animal Health Workers. The health system we have in mind must be safe, accessible, sustainable and compatible with the evolution of the ecosystem. The experience gained on the field urged us to share our results with a larger audience, with the final goal of promoting the One Health approach in a wider context. In this regard, in November 2018 CCM organized a scientific conference in Turin, where the topics presented by the invited speakers included Biodiversity (introduced by Franco Correggia), overview on One Health (by Jakob Zinsstag); One Health and Health of Humans (by Micol Fascendini); Environmental health and its legal aspects (by Pia Acconci); "One Health Approach" in cooperation projects in Sub-saharan Africa: The use of acaricides to control the ticks infestation in Zambia – Implications for human, animal and environmental health (by Daniele de Meneghi); Climatic changes and impact on man (by Alessandro Pezzoli). Moreover, the conference allowed sharing the experience of CCM project on One Health among pastoral communities in northern Kenya, including the results of field researches on climate changes and anthropological studies conducted in the project area. The conference material is available on (<http://www.ccm-italia.org/convegni-scientifici>). More recently, CCM has opened a discussion with the University of Turin, Polo Universitario S. Luigi- Orbassano to jointly organize a course on One Health for the Medical School students. At the AgroVet campus in Grugliasco, some lecturers and researchers have started to include in their courses short modules/teaching units/seminars on One Health to allow students to familiarize with the OH concept and approach. Within the teaching activities of the International Master "Sécurité Alimentaire et Durabilité Environnementale" (project R.U.S.S.A.D.E. EU-EDULINK II), coordinated by CISAO_Unito, in collaboration with Universities of Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, a teaching module on One Health was included in the Master curriculum. As regards research activities on One Health, it is worth mentioning that some lecturers/researchers of the Department of Veterinary Sciences have developed – within the activities of the COST action TD1404 NEOH (<http://neoh.onehealthglobal.net/>)– an innovate framework to evaluate One Health initiatives. The framework allows to attribute specific OH scores and to generate OH indexes to evaluate quantitatively and qualitatively different OH initiatives, activities, projects, including development cooperation programs. Such framework is a useful research tool which can provide qualitative and quantitative data to help decision makers and politicians to support and implement or discard health initiatives, on a sound scientific basis.

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