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HANOI UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

VOHUN
Vietnam One Health University Network

VOHUN

VIET NAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK
OUR NETWORK



20

MEMBER
UNIVERSITIES



15

ONE HEALTH
STUDENT CLUBS



>4,000

INDIVIDUALS
REACHED VIA COVID-
19 RCCE ACTIVITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Raised awareness of the COVID-19 pandemic by educating 922 primary school students in Duc Thang ward, Bac Tu Liem district, Hanoi.
- Encouraged students and faculty to develop posters and videos that provided education on COVID-19 risk communication and infection prevention control (IPC) measures as part of a pandemic digital awareness challenge, which reached thousands of students and social media followers.
- Trained 15,176 students in One Health and One Health core competencies via modules that were either compulsory, elective, or integrated into curriculum.
- Our One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) organized 16 activities and engaged 673 students on a range of topics including COVID-19 awareness, prevention, and response; rabies; avian influenza; helminths, One Health; zoonoses; and diphtheria.
- Supported students in the development of 15 videos aimed at raising awareness on COVID-19 for a rhetoric contest.
- Engaged with 400 households in Mang Thit district, Vinh Long province to provide education on prevention and control of parasitic helminths that commonly infect dogs and cats.



ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1

Innovations to empower students, put One Health knowledge and skills in practice, and strengthen the health workforce

We provided technical and financial support to 15 One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs), which implemented 16 activities, each focused on a different One Health topic such as COVID-19 or other zoonotic diseases (VN Activity 1.2.3). Over 2,000 students, 400 villagers, and thousands of social media followers directly benefited from the student club's activities, especially in regard to COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and infection prevention and control (IPC).

Additionally, we successfully organized a One Health camp for students focusing on rabies risk communication in Nghe An province (VN Activity 1.2.4). From a competitive applicant pool of nearly 400 students, 50 were selected by the VOHUN (National Coordinating Office) NCO to participate and were tasked with preparing rabies risk communication plans, which ultimately reached 532 local community members and 600 secondary school students from five villages in Cong Thanh commune. This camp provided an excellent learning opportunity for the students and was strongly supported by the local government, as 38 officers were in attendance. Read more about this activity in our success story: **One Health Camp on Rabies Risk Communication** on page 164.

In addition, we supported another successful student-focused activity, which involved veterinary students from the Viet Nam National University of Agriculture (VNUA). The students participated in a four day field trip to Thanh Mien district, Hai Duong (VN Activity 1.4.5) where they received hands-on instruction from lecturers and veterinarians about the importance of incorporating One Health into veterinary practices. A similar One Health field site in Hai Phong City was also established

where 30 local health and veterinary staff received One Health training in the One Health approach and associated topics.

Finally, to ensure the continued training of health care workers, veterinary staff, and students, the VOHUN NCO hosted a workshop to develop a virtual training program (VN Activity 1.3.1). This 8-course training program aims to assist health workers and veterinary staff in developing and implementing zoonotic disease prevention plans within a One Health framework. A total of 51 faculty helped develop the training content which focuses on zoonotic disease prevention and the application of One Health core competencies. Three hundred ninety individuals from VOHUN member universities and Viet Nam governmental departments participated in interviews to assess the need for further training on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.



Personal protective equipment, distancing, and group size standards in this photo were consistent with local public health guidance and COVID-19 status in the specific country and time it was taken. This may not reflect best practices for all locations where COVID-19 is still spreading.

PHOTO: VOHUN

OBJECTIVE 2

One Health Workforce Assessment & Tracking

Read about the SEAHOHUN Network contributions to One Health Workforce Assessment and Tracking in the Global Objective 2 Impact Articles **One Health Competency**

Framework to Define Workforce Performance on page 28 and **National and Regional One Health Platforms Linking to University Partnerships** on page 29.

OBJECTIVE 3

Expanding partnerships and working towards Network sustainability

Sustainable organizational development is one of the top priorities of the VOHUN Network. This year, we held two meetings to build toward this goal: a VOHUN Year 2 (2020-2021) activity planning meeting (VN Activity 3.1.3) and an annual meeting of VOHUN member Universities (VN Activity 3.2.3). These highly collaborative meetings involved representatives from all 20 VOHUN member Universities and highlighted this year's successes while focusing on advancing the Network's sustainability, particularly via securing independent VOHUN legal status.

We were also successful in expanding VOHUN's recognition by collaborating with other international and national organizations. In an effort to strengthen core capacities in preventing, detecting, controlling, and containing biological threats, VOHUN collaborated with the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP), Sandia National Laboratory, General Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM), and the Department of Animal Health (DAH) to implement two globally-attended virtual workshop sessions. These sessions highlight Viet Nam's leadership in the field of biological risk management and VOHUN's ability to collaborate nationally and internationally on critical biological threat reduction objectives. Learn more about how SEAOHUN is strengthening organizational sustainability in the **SEAOHUN Secretariat section** on page 119.

LESSONS LEARNED

Adaptive management during the pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, VOHUN shifted plans and activity implementation from in-person to virtual and hybrid formats (when appropriate) to

ensure social distancing and adherence to other recommended health guidelines. Virtual engagement provided an opportunity for greater internal and external participation as well as partnership development. For example, representatives from Libya, Malaysia, and Thailand were able to join the VOHUN workshop where teaching materials and training courses were developed for the benefit of health care workers and veterinary staff. These collaborations are leading to long-lasting, scalable, and transformative partnerships.

Empowering students as One Health leaders

VOHUN member universities encouraged and empowered numerous One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) as they implemented Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities for COVID-19 and other zoonoses.

These student-led activities necessitated creativity to be successful. The development and execution of these activities instilled a culture of innovation in these students, an important skill that can be used to build sustainability of the OHSCs that positively impact the community. Most importantly, this creativity and innovation will make these students successful members of the future One Health workforce.

NEXT STEPS

VOHUN plans to equip students with One Health knowledge by providing them with diverse engagement opportunities such as university trainings, fieldwork, and community outreach.

We realize that the OHSCs form the backbone of our Network and that students are critical to the ability to address emerging health threats in Viet Nam. Therefore, we aim to continue to diversify forms of education and training which will help students develop the necessary skills and key One Health core competencies to be successful leaders in the future health workforce.





ONE HEALTH CHAMPION

DANG BICH THUY

*Lecturer and OHSC mentor at Thai Binh University
of Medicine and Pharmacy (TBUMP)*



“ Since its establishment, the Vietnam One Health University Network has helped our staff, faculty, and university as a whole to develop One Health training programs for undergraduate students and support the student-led One Health club. When guiding students to solve a health problem, especially health issues related to zoonoses, I always try to teach them to have a multidimensional perspective and encourage them to coordinate their efforts between human health, animal health, and environmental health, to fully utilize the One Health core competencies. While teaching the One Health module, there is a connection between classroom theoretical learning and practical hands-on experience at the ‘One Health field sites’ supported by VOHUN, which greatly benefits participants and enforces One Health core competencies. “



ONE HEALTH CHAMPION

Dr. LE THANH HIEN

Head of Department of Infectious Diseases & Veterinary Public Health; Vice-Dean of Faculty of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City

Within the One Health Workforce – Next Generation project, Dr. Le Thanh Hien is developing One Health training programs and core lectures for in-service training courses

“ As a veterinary epidemiologist, at the beginning of the project, I thought animal disease control was an important practice only for livestock production. However, when I started working closely in the One Health network, I gradually realized the importance of working across disciplines for better control of zoonotic diseases in animals and the need for solving problems through a One Health perspective. This project gave me a chance to meet many colleagues all over the world that I can learn from and collaborate with. The way I look at health issues has changed to become more broad – I now consider the contributions of my colleagues across different fields of expertise and professional backgrounds. From these experiences, my teaching has become more interesting and lively for students, and my research focuses on health issues that impact both humans and animals, especially zoonoses. “

SUCCESS STORY

PLANTING “SEEDS” TO GROW ONE HEALTH IN VIET NAM

ONE HEALTH CAMP ON RABIES RISK COMMUNICATION

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) One Health Workforce Project – Next Generation (OHW-NG) Project, the Viet Nam One Health University Network (VOHUN) successfully organized a “One Health Camp – Rabies Risk Communication”, which ran from July 24-26, 2020 in Cong Thanh commune, Yen Thanh district, Nghe An province, a community at high-risk for rabies. The camp's objective was to provide an opportunity for students to: (1) understand the importance of implementing a One Health approach to disease prevention; (2) apply One Health core competencies in disease prevention activities; and (3) conduct a community engagement activity to raise awareness of and help prevent rabies in the community.

The camp application process was competitive, and applicants were required to complete a 10-question, multiple choice exam and submit an essay detailing their perceptions of and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Three hundred seventy four (374) applicants applied to the camp and 50 students were selected to participate. A rabies-focused virtual training course was conducted at the beginning of the camp and students were assisted with development of rabies risk communication plans. Wanting to mimic the collaborative, multi-sectoral nature of One Health, students worked together in online groups to develop their risk communication plans all with the support of VOHUN faculty members.



PHOTO: VOHUN

As a direct result of the camp activities, five rabies communication plans were presented to 532 community members within five villages of Cong Thanh commune. Each group developed a unique approach to educate and communicate with the local communities about rabies, answering questions such as “what is rabies?”, “how is rabies contracted?”, “how should one respond if bitten by a rabid dog or cat?”. One particularly effective mode of delivery for attracting local community members to the event was live performances. Plays and short dramas that the students created about rabies were engaging and comical, but more importantly, they were educational and memorable for the audience members. One student group even re-wrote the lyrics to a popular folk song giving it a rabies-prevention theme and performed it live, which was a huge success. To solidify and help apply the messages, community members were given hands-on instruction on proper washing

techniques, especially for bite wounds.

The district health center, commune health station, and village leaders were supportive of the students’ efforts and were impressed by quality and presentation of the communication plans. The camp and subsequent events were highly successful, as they were attended by community members and local officials. Rabies awareness rose after the event and with further engagement could continue to grow if messages are reinforced and community members pass their knowledge onto friends and family.

Many students expressed that this camp was their favorite event to-date in their academic careers, as it gave them a valuable opportunity to learn and share their knowledge and skills in a culturally relevant framework. Additionally, the amount of creativity and work required to make a communication plan successful was valuable experience that students will use as they advance into the One Health workforce.

“My experience can be summarized in one word: SEED. “SEED” stands for Solidarity, Encouraged, Effective, and Developed – these words encompass the valuable experience I gained during this memorable time. At that moment, I dreamed that our mission is the “great seed” of VOHUN’s future and I hope to accompany the Network in continued training of the next generation of SEEDS.”

–Thao, Nguyen Thi Mai, Leader of Student Group 4