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VOHUN
Vietnam One Health University Network

VOHUN

VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR NETWORK



24

Universities

30

Faculties



16

One Health
University
Student Clubs



7

COVID-19-related
Activities



1,599

Individuals reached
via RCCE activities



288

Individuals trained in
COVID-19 related topics

ABOUT VOHUN

- ◉ We connect Vietnamese universities from the field of medicine, veterinary science, public health, nursing and food technology, to equip a new generation of lecturers and researchers with a full range of One Health knowledge and skills.
- ◉ Vision: Foster sustainable transdisciplinary capacity building to respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases.
- ◉ Mission: To leverage the training, education, and research capacities of the University Network to build the skills, knowledge and attitude base for OH leaders.
- ◉ We partner with key government agencies, research institutes, and international development organizations working towards One Health.
- ◉ Member of the Viet Nam One Health Partnership for Zoonoses.
- ◉ Established in November 2011.
- ◉ Visit our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Activities

Objective 1

There are eight activities under Objective 1; one activity is completed (VN Activity 1.3.7), six activities are being implemented, and one activity (VN Activity 1.4.2) is planned for implementation in Quarter 3.”

- VOHUN continuously provided technical and financial support for the maintenance and development of the One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) by supporting 175 students from four OHSCs to initiate several activities:
 1. Livestock biosafety and applying the One Health approach to strengthen and implement trial research to reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock production;⁴
 2. Recruiting new members of the Hanoi Medical University (HMU) OHSC and Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry OHSC; and
 3. Community outreach in Thai Binh on protecting drinking water sources and on the efficient use of drinking water for 345 primary school students, organized by the Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy OHSC.
- Seven Master’s students were evaluated, and a contract to support scholarships for One Health-oriented Master of Public Health degrees between Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH) and HMU was signed. In this contract, HUPH, on behalf of VOHUN, provided fulltuition scholarships (\$ 3,500/person) for seven Vietnamese students. HMU is providing students with all the materials, equipment, and resources necessary to facilitate their studies during the 2020- 2021 academic year.
- The Institute of Preventive Medicine and Public Health (IPMPH) is seeking accreditation of the International Master’s degree in Public Health with a One Health focus. After careful consideration of international quality assurance agencies capable of accrediting the program, IPMPH selected the German Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences, whose international work focuses on the accreditation of Master’s programs in the fields of health, social sciences, and other related areas. This Master’s program was developed by many One Health lecturers affiliated with VOHUN since the beginning, and the NCO coordinated efforts to obtain its approval by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Training as a new Master’s program under the IPMPH. It is a collective achievement of the entire University Network and the program is on its fifth year of implementation.
- Preparations are ongoing for a session on One Health research at the 4th National Conference on Animal and Veterinary Sciences 2021 in Hue, Viet Nam. VOHUN sent out a call for abstracts to its member Universities on select topics, and 18 abstracts were submitted by end of March 2021. In collaboration with the conference organizers, VOHUN will enlist lecturers to help with the presentation review process and will select the most appropriate ones for delivery at the conference.
- A three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on One Health approaches, core competencies, and pedagogy was conducted, featuring 37 lecturers. Ten

- were young lecturers from Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) and Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and 27 were from the four new VOHUN member Universities (see Objective 3).
- One Health field-based experiential learning courses were organized at three One Health Sites (OHSs), engaging 161 local professionals, community members, and students. Through these field trips, students learned how to apply the One Health approach and core competencies by investigating the current farm management practices in poultry farms, thus learning the structure, roles, and responsibilities of the district disease prevention system. Additionally, the local human health staff and veterinarians improved their One Health knowledge, especially in the context of zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases, and have been able to use the core competencies to help guide student field work.

~ Thai Nguyen OHS: Helped students observe the biosafety status of poultry farms and apply OH core competencies for the prevention and control of avian influenza in chickens and humans at Binh Long commune, Vo Nhai district, Thai Nguyen province. There were 35 participants, with 15 from human health and 20 from animal health fields

~ Hai Duong OHS: Set up the OHS in Hai Duong and organized a training course on 'One Health in Practice' for 43 health and 39 veterinary staff in Thanh Mien district, Hai Duong, to provide One Health knowledge and teaching skills. These individuals will co-teach students during the field-based portion with VNUA lecturers.

~ Can Tho OHS: Conducted field-based learning to raise awareness of rabies. The students were divided into groups to visit, interview, and distribute leaflets to four communities in the district. Students applied One Health core competencies to investigate the community members' knowledge of rabies, its causes, and preventive measures. Four lecturers and 44 students participated in the field activity.

Intending to promote the OHSC activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the VOHUN NCO has initiated the following activities.

- Held a photo contest during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020 under the theme of 'Practicing proper antimicrobial use in livestock, aquaculture, and human health care' where 16 students participated. Read more in the [success story](#).
- Supported an outbreak exhibition on 'Epidemics in a Connected World' at Hanoi Medical University, which was held by the US Embassy with support from the HMU OHSC.
- Held a virtual training course in March 2021 to develop the wildlife diseases risk communication plan. The training consisted of four sessions: Wildlife and Environmental Effect; Wildlife Conversation; Wildlife Disease; and Risk Communication Methods. There were 195 views across the four livestreams. For more information and to watch the sessions, please visit the VOHUN [fan page](#).

Objective 2

- For a knowledge management needs assessment of each University currently implementing workforce training programs related to One Health, VOHUN prepared two questionnaires and shared them within the Network for comments and testing before being finalized. Focus group discussions are planned for April and May 2021; initial results are to be presented at the TOT on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (see next item).
- A TOT on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning is being prepared for VOHUN task force members. Planned for the last week of June, the training agenda was developed and shared with SEAOHUN and relevant partners from the Global Team to get consensus on the presentation content and identify subject matter experts.

Objective 3

- VOHUN expanded its Network from 20 to 24 member Universities and includes both public and private universities. Four new members were admitted into VOHUN on the recommendations of each university, namely Quy Nhon University, Nghe An College of Economics, Phenikaa University, and University of Medicine and Pharmacy - Vietnam National University.
- VOHUN gave presentations at the Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 Program closing workshop on 19 January 2021, and the USAID Partners' Meeting on 3 March 2021.

USAID Emergency COVID-19 Response Tranche-4 Funding

Six out of seven activities (Activity 2 - Activity 7) were completed in this period:

- Organized two 'Biosafety & Biosecurity' training courses for 70 laboratory staff at Universities in Northern and Southern Viet Nam (activity completed).
- Organized four training workshops on 'Emergency Risk Communication' for 218 health workers from the Northern, Southern, Highland, and Central regions of Viet Nam (activities completed).
- Conducted a needs assessment on biorisk management in laboratories. From September 2020 to March 2021, qualified lecturers from VOHUN performed interviews with laboratory workers from VOHUN member Universities, the provincial Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Sub-Department of Animal Health, together with officials from the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The objective was to identify the current biosafety and biosecurity protocols of their laboratories, and to provide training on biorisk management.

Lessons Learned

With the Network's expansion, VOHUN now comprises both private and public universities. The number of Universities increased from 20 to 24, and faculties increased from 22 to 30 as compared to last year. This is beneficial as the diversity of the Network will contribute to the Network's sustainability in the future. The member faculties/Universities not only share experiences in the development and teaching of One Health modules, but also collaborate in the development of research projects and contribute resources toward Network development.

VOHUN has been recognized by the government and was invited into the Viet Nam One Health Partnership and signing its framework for the prevention of transmission of zoonotic diseases. This will increase VOHUN's opportunities to contribute towards a sustainable partnership, such as through the provision of training services of the One Health workforce, and by contributing to the implementation of Viet Nam's commitments in the Global Health Security Agenda.

Next Steps

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

We realize that the OHSCs form the backbone of our Network and that students are critical for addressing future 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 core competencies to be successful leaders in the future health workforce.

Establish additional OHSs to provide field learning opportunities for students. The OHS is a community where students can support the CDC or local authorities in outbreak investigation, surveillance and reporting. It is also a place where students can work with district and commune staff, community members, or local health workers who can support them in applying One Health and its core competencies.

VOHUN encourages its member Universities to develop the One Health field-based modules and field training guidelines for local health workers and students, enabling them to apply core competencies when investigating case studies, risk communication and more.

Success Story

Antimicrobial Resistance – A concern for animals or humans?



Careful use of antibiotics in animal husbandry practices is essential for combating the rising threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Photo credit: Students Veterinary Team, Hai Phong University of Preventive Medicine.

impressive photos and captions, especially since all photos were taken by students at different situations such as during a field trip, in a laboratory or at a community. A Board of Judges

Viet Nam is one of three countries in the region projected to see the greatest increase in rates of antimicrobial use in livestock between 2010 and 2030.⁷ Because of the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance is also rapidly growing, posing a serious challenge to global health, agri-food systems, and economies. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is encouraging actors from all sectors, including farmers, manufacturers, cooks, and customers, to step up efforts to prevent the spread of drug-resistant microbes.

The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (18-24 November) is a global initiative to raise awareness about the risks of the widespread use of antibiotics. How can the issue be related to One Health commitment? How should we act? To provide knowledge and skills for One Health students, the VOHUN National Coordinating Office (NCO) held a photo contest with the theme “Appropriate use of antibiotics in livestock, poultry, aquaculture production and in humans” from 22 October through 15 November 2020. The contest was an open opportunity for all One Health students who were studying at any of VOHUN’s University members. The organizers received 16 submissions with many

rated the competition entries according to criteria developed by VOHUN. Fifteen of 16 submissions were posted on VOHUN’s [fan page](#) for voting by the public.

Through the competition, the VOHUN NCO was successful at raising awareness of the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, not only for students but also the public who voted for their preferred photos on the VOHUN fan page. Hoang – a member of winning team said, “By participating in the contest, I was so surprised to see that AMR could affect animal health and transfer to humans and become a human health problem. It is a serious One Health issue.” Consequently, it could be seen that students gained more from the knowledge they found while searching for information about the contest’s theme rather than the award that they won. These efforts also improved the ability of One Health students to work together, as well as their skill in risk communication.

⁷ FAO Vietnam, 2016: Addressing Antimicrobial Usage in Livestock Production Industry.