



# VOHUN

VIETNAM ONE HEALTH UNIVERSITY NETWORK

## NETWORK OVERVIEW



## ABOUT VOHUN

- VOHUN leverages the training, education, research capacities of the university network to build the skills, knowledge and attitude base for One Health leaders.
- VOHUN establishes One Health Sites to serve as natural laboratories for students to practice techniques in data and risk communication with members of the studied community.
- Mission: To leverage the training, education, and research capacities of the university network to build the skills, knowledge and attitude base for OH leaders.
- Vision: Fostering sustainable transdisciplinary capacity building to respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases.
- Established in 2011.
- Visit our website at [www.vohun.org](http://www.vohun.org).

# Highlights

- Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry developed guidelines for animal research ethics.
- Conducted a training course in Hanoi on applying One Health approaches in disease surveillance for staff working at One Health sites, 4-5 May 2022.
- Organized a training course on One Health data analysis and interpretation for district health workers in Hai Phong, 2-3 June 2022.
- Established two new One Health sites in Quang Ninh and Long An provinces.
- Organized a national One Health camp for students focusing on risk assessment of viral disease from wildlife species, Dong Nai province, 27-28 July 2022.
- Provided scholarships for 15 Vietnamese students enrolled in the International Master's of Public Health with a One Health focus track at the Hanoi Medical University.
- VOHUN celebrated its 10th year anniversary with two important events: 1) a dialogue on One Health Policy and Education, held on 3 November 2022; and 2) a talk show on One Health career opportunities on 22 November 2022. Key findings and solutions discussed were captured in policy briefs.
- VOHUN has admitted three new University members - Dong A University, Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, and Viet-Duc University.

# Activities

## Objective 1

### Developing curricular content to match One Health workforce needs

On 24 to 25 February 2022, with the technical support of two experts from the Global Consortium, the VOHUN National Coordination Office (NCO) coordinated a virtual meeting to update One Health modules for specific majors in 22 member Universities, with the participation of 89 lecturers. The workshop identified key One Health competencies which meet local needs, and participants from 17 universities signified their intention to update or develop new modules for their

respective disciplinary specializations. This engagement demonstrates that the workshop has given more impetus to network members to continuously improve curriculum through revising or building new One Health content.

A semi-virtual workshop was held from 13 to 14 September 2022 for 67 faculty participants from 21 universities to review training modules based on updated One Health competencies. During the workshop,

the OHW-NG Global Consortium members provided feedback on the modules, and lecturers from member universities had a great opportunity to learn more about revising and developing One Health training modules.

### **Raising One Health workforce capacities**

The VOHUN NCO provided support to the Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry to organize a virtual training course on ethical use of animals for scientific research purposes on 24 to 25 March 2022. Faculty members reviewed existing documents and developed the Ethical Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Research, which will be applied in all livestock and veterinary faculties in Viet Nam.

On 4 to 5 May 2022, the VOHUN NCO conducted a training course in Hanoi on applying One Health approaches in disease surveillance for 22 human health and animal health staff working at One Health sites (OHSs). Participants from human and animal health sectors had a chance to share their experiences in the application of indicator-based surveillance, event-based surveillance, and community-based surveillance. Those from the human health sector gained a better understanding of the disease surveillance system in animal health in the country, and vice-versa for animal health professionals appreciating the International Health Regulations' integrated human disease surveillance and response system. This helps strengthen the collaboration between the two sectors in zoonotic disease surveillance.

From 2 to 3 June 2022 VOHUN conducted a training course on One Health data analysis in Hai Phong. Trainees included district human health and animal health workers from five nearby provinces. The training provided participants with knowledge and skills in data analysis and interpretation,

through practice with existing databases. After the course, the participants were confident that they could apply what they learned to analyze data to create disease surveillance reports. In addition, participants from the animal health sector gained a better understanding of the data requirements in the human health sector, and vice-versa, which helps further strengthen collaboration between the two sectors for disease surveillance reporting.

This year, five field-based learning courses were conducted at OHSs by eight VOHUN member Universities. Students applied skills in preparing data collection tools, conducting interviews and focus group discussions, analyzing data, and relaying feedback to stakeholders in the community. The field-based learning is not just a way of practicing, it is a way of working together to maximize the opportunity to apply what the students learn in a classroom environment in real-world settings.

The courses are: (1) One Health field-based training course for students in Quang Ninh focusing on pig-raising biosecurity practices and practicing sampling methods to detect African swine fever, implemented in March 2022 by Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture & Forestry and Hai Phong University of Medicine and Pharmacy; (2) Rabies Vaccination Program and Memorandum of Understanding Ceremony, conducted by the Nong Lam University and University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City; (3) One Health collaboration between veterinary and human medicine for a disease prevention course organized for 60 students of the Vietnam National University of Agriculture; (4) One Health field-based training course for 94 public health students, medical staff, and veterinary staff in Vu Thu district, Thai Binh province, held by the Thai Binh University of Medicine and Pharmacy in June 2022; and (5) Parasitic helminths in dogs

and zoonotic transmission to humans course for 45 students from Can Tho University.

Two new One Health Student Clubs (OHSCs) were established in OHW-NG Year 3, one for students of Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry in collaboration with a private enterprise, the Thien Thuan Tuong company, and the other one for students of the Nong Lam University and University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Long An province.

### **Engaging the future One Health workforce**

In December 2021, intending to promote the OHSC activities, the VOHUN NCO organized a workshop to orient and share activities for 2021 to 2022. After the event, 18 OHSCs submitted 66 proposed activities. During OHW-NG Year 3, VOHUN provided technical and financial support for 21 activities with the participation of 1,473 students and thousands of other individuals from surrounding communities.

One highlight activity was the virtual talk show entitled “Wildlife Conservation and Health” which attracted 245 attendees, held on 3 March 2022 to commemorate World Wildlife Day. This talk show was initiated by VOHUN NCO in collaboration with MedInsight book publishers and aimed to: (1) raise awareness and engagement of One Health students in wildlife conservation, and (2) recognize the link between wildlife conservation and human and environmental health. Guest speakers came from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Viet Nam, Worldwide Fund for Nature in Viet Nam, Save Vietnam Wildlife, Vietnam National University of Agriculture, and Nong Lam University.

Another highlight activity was organized for World Rabies Day on 25 September 2022, wherein 70 students from 5 One Health Student Clubs conducted simultaneous Rabies Risk Communication events in five

communes of An Duong district, Hai Phong City. The events attracted 405 local leaders and villagers. Students gave presentations, distributed flyers, had Q&A exchanges with commune residents to increase general knowledge about rabies prevention, and performed comedies/plays and a flash mob dance, all to creatively relate the seriousness of rabies. Through these innovative risk communications techniques individuals who participated in the communication events would be better able to relate what they learned through within their families and communities.

From 27 to 28 July 2022, VOHUN NCO organized a national One Health Camp focusing on risk assessment of viral disease from wild animals for 47 students from member Universities in Tan Phu district, Dong Nai province. The main activities of the camp were risk assessment practices, synthesizing data, and presenting the results in workshop. Students had opportunities to visit several



*National One Health Camp for students organized in Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai Province; 27 July 2022. Photo credit: VOHUN*



wildlife farms and wildlife rescue centers to learn firsthand about wildlife farming management practices. Before the main camp, students attended a three-day online training course to learn more about viral diseases from wild animals, risk assessment techniques for infectious diseases from wild animal farms, and zoonotic diseases. The participants of this event included lecturers of member Universities, representatives of Dong Nai Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Tan Phu forest protection station, and VOHUN NCO.

## Objective 2

Three VOHUN representatives attended the Competency-based Education Workshop held by the Global Team on 24 to 27 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. They were interested in building upon their existing skills-building courses and field experience offered to students. During the workshop, they drafted an action plan to disseminate the highlights of the workshop and form a core group to support the adoption of this pedagogical approach.

From 16-18 August 2022, VOHUN conducted a semi-virtual Training of Trainers workshop on Knowledge Management for 113 faculty members from 24 VOHUN member Universities. The workshop aimed to improve the trainee's understanding of key concepts, principles, skills, and tools, and awareness of how to apply it in their daily work. The workshop also included representatives of SEAOHUN Secretariat, INDOHUN, and VOHUN NCO.

## Objective 3

In November 2021, VOHUN celebrated the Network's 10th Anniversary with two semi-virtual events live-streamed via the Network's Facebook page: a One Health policy dialogue and One Health talk show. The policy dialogue focused on development

of a One Health Workforce in Viet Nam and included representatives from multiple government ministries, professional associations, international organizations and VOHUN member Universities. The talk show event focused on career opportunities for current and future One Health professionals across the country.

The VOHUN Year 4 activity planning meeting was held in Da Nang on 20 and 21 July 2022, with 65 participants from 25 universities, USAID, and the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency. During the meeting, VOHUN NCO presented proposed Year 4 activities and then representatives of member Universities divided into 5 groups to discuss and provide comments or other ideas to pre-finalize the workplan for Year 4.

The VOHUN annual meeting was conducted virtually on 22 and 23 September 2022, with participation of representatives from 25 member Universities and other NGO partners. The experiences, successes and lessons learned from the OHW-NG Project activities implemented in Year 3 were shared



*VOHUN Year 4 activity planning meeting conducted in Da Nang, 20 July 2022. Photo credit: VOHUN*

during this meeting. The meeting also provided an opportunity for VOHUN member Universities to be briefed on the main activities for Year 4.

VOHUN expanded its Network from 24 to 27 member Universities. The network added Dong A University, Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, and Viet-Duc University based on the recommendations of their university leaders.

On 15 February 2022, VOHUN provided a presentation for the USAID Partners' Meeting.

## Lessons Learned

The VOHUN NCO actively organized two important events in the context of the complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic (Policy Dialogue on developing OHW in Vietnam and a Student Talkshow on One Health career development opportunities) for VOHUN's 10th anniversary celebration. Organizing the events led to the development of two policy briefs. Recommendations for policy and practice are proposed together with specific solutions on adding a One Health-related competency framework for job positions in health care units and training courses. All guest speakers emphasized the roles of VOHUN member Universities in One Health workforce education, the importance of field-based learning, and the value of internship activities as practical ways for students to gain critical skills and explore their individual professional networks.

Two new OHSs were established with support from the private sector. One site was set up by the Thai Nguyen UAF in

collaboration with Thien Thuan Truong company. The other site was established in collaboration with the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine - the Nong Lam University, the Faculty of Public Health - the University of Medicine and Pharmacy - Ho Chi Minh City, Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Medicine Company, and the local government. Both new sites are partially supported by private sector businesses. The linkage between universities and private sector is an important bridge in ensuring and improving the quality of student education and training, helping students prepare for future professional work, and to improve the quality of human resources of employers and enterprises. This collaboration expands our network connecting University members with the private sector, situating current and future generations of the One Health workforce within industry. The diversity of sites also contributes to the network's long-term sustainability.

## Next Steps

Understanding the importance of sustaining our One Health university network, especially after the OHW-NG Project ends, VOHUN will design and conduct a survey to measure VOHUN's organizational health based on the partnership health check indicators of the practical guide to build high-impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals. VOHUN will also develop a resource mobilization plan and organize a fundraising training course.

In addition, VOHUN will strengthen the capacity of human health and animal health staff at the newly-established OHSs by providing training courses which apply One Health Core Competencies, mentoring opportunities for students, and conducting

multi-disciplinary risk assessments in Hai Phong. Creating and adapting One Health modules and promoting private sector involvement in field-based learning will improve the quality of the current and future One Health workforce.

VOHUN will continue to encourage OHSs to hold inter-club activities such as seminars, competitions, field trips, and community outreach activities to generate linkages between different universities and disciplines across Viet Nam. VOHUN introduced updated One Health training programs through pre-service education and in-service training, field-based learning for students through OHSCs with mentoring support from local health staff, involvement of the private sector in establishing OHSCs, capacity building in disease surveillance, data analysis for health professionals at different levels, and competency-based education for lecturers and students.

All these elements combine to create a framework for increasing VOHUN's sustainability and, through it, strengthening Vietnam's One Health workforce skills and abilities to prevent, detect, and

rapidly respond to complex challenges at the interface of human, animal and environmental health. VOHUN will improve current and future workforce knowledge and skills through continuous improvement and adaptation of One Health training programs focusing on field-based practices.

## Important Links

- One Health Sites: <https://vohun.org/en/one-health-field-sites.html>
- Policy brief: One Health Policy and Education: <http://bit.ly/3Fyikdr>
- Policy brief: Increasing practical experiences in One Health education: <http://bit.ly/3Wk6ni4>



# Success Story

## National One Health Student Camp 2022: Connect To Create the Future

The annual National One Health Camp, organized by Vietnam One Health University Network (VOHUN), is one of the most anticipated events of the year for undergraduate students in Viet Nam. VOHUN offers this unique activity to build field experience for the future One Health workforce. Conducted from 27 to 28 July 2022, this year's theme was "Risk Assessment of Infectious Diseases caused by Viruses from Wild Animals". The main objectives of the camp were to provide an opportunity for students to: (i) understand the importance of the One Health approaches in the prevention and control of human and animal diseases, and (ii) apply One Health core competencies in conducting risk assessment for viral diseases in wildlife species present in their community.

Locations for the One Health camp were carefully selected in five communities across Tan Phu district in Dong Nai province, where local wild animal farms are plentiful and wildlife disease surveillance projects are active. The program also included visits to Cat Tien National Park, a natural reserve protecting one of the largest primitive tropical forests in Viet Nam, along with tours of the Nature Museum and Wildlife Rescue Center. To ramp up to the camp, a three-day online training course was provided with important background information about viral diseases in wildlife species and technical guidance on how to conduct a risk assessment.

Students started their assessment by visiting the local community and conducting interviews with health workers, veterinarians, environmental officers, breeders, and traders based on the plan they prepared. Some groups were taken to wild animal farms to interview breeders and observe the livestock waste treatment process, as well as to learn more about the breeding process. Students also had conversations with local community members about the risk of viral diseases from wild animals they were raising. Lecturers invited from member Universities guided students, gave feedback on the reports, and selected the top-performing group.

The 47 participating students were divided into groups of mixed gender and academic majors. Mixing students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines helped facilitate the exchange of culture, knowledge, and skills, broadening their inter-personal and professional networks and preparing them for diverse perspectives they will face in their future careers.

Many students said their participation in the One Health camp was one of the most memorable events in their academic life because of the field experience that it provided, and new friendships they made with fellow campers. One of the reasons leading to the success of the National One Health Camp this year was the enthusiastic support and active participation of the local government representatives and community members. They each created favorable conditions for students and lecturers when working in the field, such as inviting local people to be interviewed and to participate in visiting the farms.



*National One Health Camp for Students 2022*

*Photo credit: VOHUN*