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ONE HEALTH
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One Health and urban Transformation – Identifying Risks, Developing Sustainable Solutions

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Background situation: One Health Policy Formulation process



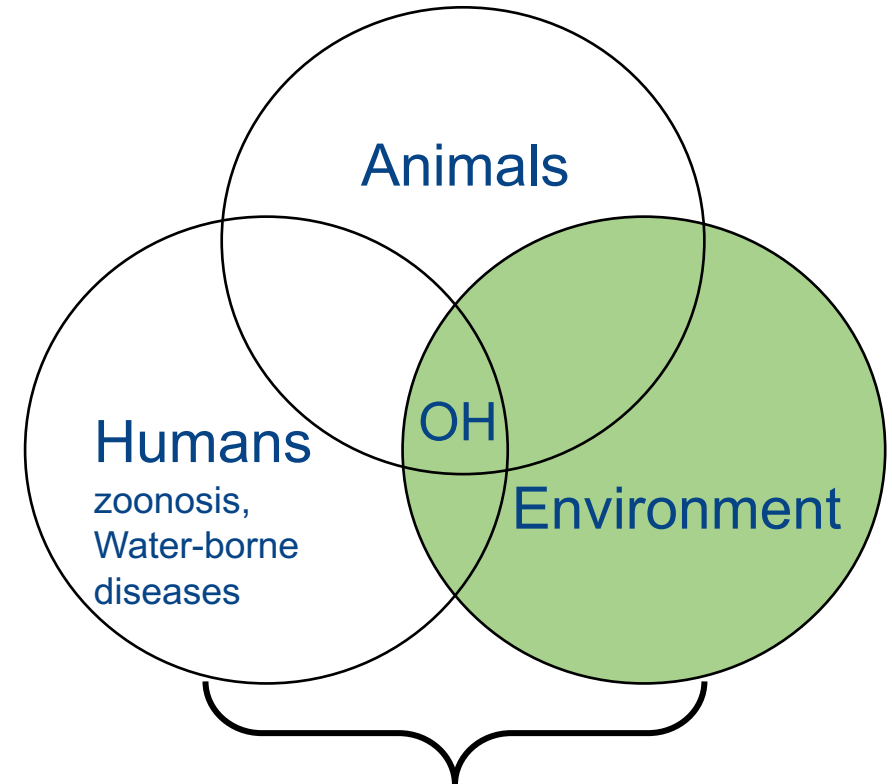
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- ▶ There have been coordinated multi-sectoral initiatives in Ghana to prevent diseases through the support of bilateral and donor organizations in the past years.
- ▶ In 2017, a One Health Technical Working Group was formed to develop a national One Health (OH) policy for Ghana.
- ▶ Focus of OH in Ghana is on infectious diseases (particularly zoonosis). E.g. 6 zoonotic diseases: *avian influenza, rabies, hemorrhagic fevers, bovine tuberculosis, trypanosomosis and anthrax.*
- ▶ Cooperation among institutions has been reported as a major challenge.
- ▶ Key questions are: how to translate the OH policy into action, and how to extend the OH understanding?



Scope for further OH research in Ghana

- ▶ Broadening the understanding of OH governance in Ghana:
 - Include environmental conservation and protection to promote environmental health
 - Land use planning, wastes mgt. water protection
 - Include infectious diseases
 - ◆ Vector borne disease. E.g. malaria
 - ◆ Water-borne diseases. E.g. diarrheal, schistosomiasis.



Need to be integrated into the OH governance

Infectious diseases (IDs)



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- ▶ IDs are still a key challenge, and solutions cannot be found simply from public health/medicine.
- ▶ The cases of water-borne and vector-borne diseases are linked to human behavior and the environment: poor land-use, existence of stagnant water, & poor wastes disposal



Source: Photos taken during fieldwork and data collection in March 2019 in Accra, Ghana. By J. Ntajal

Human-environment interactions and vector-borne diseases



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- ▶ **Malaria:** the incidence rate and morbidity of malaria is still high in GAMA. This is linked to:
 - Complex interactions among different categories of factors at various scales
 - Existence of open pits/ponds serve as major breeding sites for mosquito-vectors
 - Compliance of patients to malaria drug prescriptions and the adoption of preventive measures (use of treated bed nets)

- ▶ Key in reducing incidence of malaria:
 - Reducing the density of mosquito-vectors through a regular drainage of breeding sites and the use of larvicide.

Human-water interactions and water-borne diseases



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- ▶ **Schistosomiasis** is a huge health challenge among schoolchildren in peri-urban communities in Accra. The exposure and risk factors are
 - Limited access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.
 - Increasing human-animal interaction through sharing of a common drinking water source.
 - Recreational, domestic and occupational water-contact activities.

- ▶ Key in reducing incidence of schistosomiasis:
 - WASH for both humans and animals, and discourage open defecation.
 - Collaborated and coordinated action campaigns for good health-seeking behaviors.



Some key recommendations

- ▶ Integrate environmental health protection into the OH governance policy, through land use planning, improved wastes management systems, and surface water protection.
- ▶ Collaboration among sectors and coordination of actions to promote health and wellbeing is strongly recommended.

*While Ghana has advanced the formulation of the OH policy with special focus on zoonotic diseases from the initial phase, it is important to zoom into some **synergies** between Ghana and India on the **policy formulation on the control of zoonotic diseases.***



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Thank you.