

Table 1: Overview

<p>Project description</p> <p>Development and Piloting of a Quadripartite One Health Assessment Tool for AMR-relevant Legislation Project: (ID:XXXXXX)</p> <p>-Duration: 24 months + 12 months extension (March 2021 to March 2024)</p> <p>Activities under this MPTF project focus on the development and piloting of a One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR (hereinafter “OHLAT”).</p> <p>According to the global project proposal document, its key activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• development of OHLAT by a group of international experts backstopped by FAO, WHO and WOA, and with the support of UNEP;• conducting expert review meetings to support the finalization of OHLAT;• piloting OHLAT in three MPTF priority countries;• two multi-country workshops;• development of an e-learning method;• validation of OHLAT.
<p>Project progress: Highlights of project so far</p> <p>Implementation of the MPTF global legal project (hereinafter “the global project” or the “legal project”) has been undertaken by FAO, WHO and WOA with UNEP formally joining the project in Q4 of 2023. Incorporating final revisions from UNEP, OHLAT is entering the publication stream in March 2024.</p> <p>Development of OHLAT</p> <p>OHLAT was developed through an extensive process of review and consultation. It comprises information and assessment questions derived from international standards across multiple sectors. It builds upon and expands the FAO Methodology to Analyse AMR-Relevant Legislation in the Food and Agriculture Sector (hereinafter “FAO Methodology”) and a pilot questionnaire developed by WOA aiming to assess a country’s AMR-relevant legislation in the veterinary domain. OHLAT also integrates health sector assessments derived from a range of WHO standards, notably the Global Benchmarking Tool.</p> <p>The content and preliminary structure of OHLAT were then agreed upon by the three Organizations (FAO, WHO, and WOA – hereinafter “the project team”) with inputs from UNEP, along with the style, reference terminology, approach and internal structure of the sections. OHLAT comprises 7 chapters that correspond to different One Health sectors, including a cross-sectoral chapter on governance. Each of the three organizations commissioned the development of its assigned chapters to external consultants with a total of seven experts working on the various chapters along with the coordinators. These chapters deal with AMR institutional coordination, human health, food safety, animal health and production, pesticide management, plant health and the environment.</p>

Once the first drafts of the chapters were ready, they were shared with peer reviewers and experts inside and outside of the organisations and each chapter was assigned its own group of experts and peer reviewers. Based on the peer review, a pilot version of OHLAT was prepared for validation through three pilot missions.

Pilot projects

OHLAT was piloted in three AMR MPTF countries: Morocco, Zimbabwe and Cambodia. Pilots involved the recruitment of a national legal consultant for each country, backstopped by lawyers and international consultants from FAO, WHO and WOA. Each pilot resulted in a national report identifying areas of improvement in the national legal frameworks relevant for AMR, which were presented to the national stakeholders in national workshops (Morocco in November 2022, Cambodia in August 2023 and Zimbabwe in November 2023). Efforts were made for Zimbabwe and Cambodia to not duplicate recent work done in the country using the FAO Methodology assessment. Further, OHLAT has been deployed in the context of one MPTF national project in Peru, within the framework of their national MPTF project.

These missions allowed improvements of the pilot version OHLAT, which led to a final version, ready for publication.

Multi-country workshops

Two multi-country workshops, mainly aimed to present OHLAT, were organized.

The multi-country workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean region took place virtually in November 2022. It was organized as a Quadripartite activity and attended by over 116 public and private experts as well as representatives of governments from the human, animal and plant health, food safety and the environment sectors, and nearly all countries in the region.

The second multi-country workshop took place in a hybrid format in April 2023 in Senegal with participation from 30 countries in Africa. The second multi-country workshop was nested within the wider African Regional Lessons Learned Workshop for Implementation of AMR National Action Plans.

The Virtual Launch Event

The Virtual Launch event took place on 28 November 2023. The project team introduced the background and objectives of OHLAT along with its content and internal structure. To accommodate multiple time-zones and languages, two identical sessions were organized, with total participation of more than 650 registrants. One session had interpretation in English-French and the second in Spanish-English.

The Virtual Launch Event – which included detailed description of OHLAT and its relevant chapters – was recorded to serve as an e-learning method and an overall introduction to OHLAT. The recording is accessible in the YouTube channel of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat.

Main challenges

What have been the main challenges confronted in delivering the project and how did you address these?

The technical, legal and structural complexity of the development of this innovative One Health legal Tool was a first challenge, and the process took longer than originally foreseen. Also, the process of consultations led to the expansion of OHLAT with additional chapters, and then subsequently to the need to ensure consistency across its chapters.

Once a detailed version was developed, a second challenge was simplifying the complex and cross-sectoral regulatory mechanisms. Priority was placed, as the development of OHLAT progressed, on feasibility for application and implementation across a range of jurisdictions, legal systems and human and resource capacities. Thus, efforts have been made to strike a balance between sufficiently comprehensive scope and detail to serve as a meaningful assessment and ease of use and understanding – so that the assessment process is not overly time-consuming and complicated in terms of process or substance.

Given the complexity of OHLAT development, the expert meetings were postponed and some of them required follow-up work and meetings. There were additional challenges related to the evolving and diverse scientific understanding of AMR in relation to the interface between AMR and the environment, as well as on the role of certain antimicrobials (e.g., biocides and food additives) in the development of AMR.

Due to COVID-19, engaging with countries and regions took significantly more time. Also, the engagement of countries across sectors took additional time both to gain commitment for implementation and to do the implementation itself. Stakeholder consultation at the national level therefore was another significant source of delays. Convening stakeholders in a timely manner for bilateral and especially group consultations took longer than anticipated. In addition, two of the three countries (Cambodia and Zimbabwe) went on national elections during the implementation of the national pilots, and this resulted in some challenges in relation to government engagement and organisation of the national workshops.

Finally, the engagement with UNEP in the last stages of the project introduced an additional round of approval and discussion.

What has been the impact of these challenges on project delivery?

There has been a delay of more than 12 months from the original work plan, impacting particularly the pilot missions and multi-country workshops, as well as the final publication.

In parallel, the challenges related to OHLAT development also impacted positively the project delivery, leading to a deep collective reflexion and a high quality of OHLAT– and showing the potential of collaboration between the Quadripartite teams.

Learning Innovation

The drafting of OHLAT has brought to light several technical and legal points that were unclear and/or where there was a diversity of opinions among the experts and the project team. As the evolution of

science and international standards relevant for this very dynamic and relatively new area, as well as of the focus and prioritization, are likely to continue, OHLAT must remain flexible and adaptable.

Stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization:

The success of the pilot missions was facilitated by the interest and agreement of the country representatives of the four organisations, as well as of the national representatives of the different sectors. Due attention was paid to existing or potential conflicts across government institutions, as well as to other potential challenges to conducting the missions. There has been significant interest in the project and various other countries inside and outside of the MPTF have engaged for legal support surrounding AMR governance and interventions.

Is there evidence that the MPTF grant is catalysing a broader engagement of stakeholders and / or additional investment in addressing AMR (in particular government)?

Through the MPTF Legal Tool project various stakeholders from different ministries and other government authorities are brought together for the first time. The importance of governance, legislation and regulations is raised, and an expanded One Health view is brought to the table, showing that sectors are dealing with the same or similar issues across their areas of work. The MPTF global projects are paving the way for regional and country implementation of international norms and standards relevant for AMR across the Quadripartite organizations and their respective sectors.