Why is legislation relevant to One Health?

The work of the FAO Development Law Service

Office of the Legal Counsel

Development Law Service (LEGN)

Provides legislative and policy assistance through technical cooperation projects and programmes upon demand; works both with technical units and Member Countries

General Legal Affairs Service (LEGA)

Advises technical units on legal and constitutional matters, Performs the "classic" role of the legal office

LEGN Mandate

- Advice and assistance on legislative drafting
  National and international law development processes

- Information
  Faolex.fao.org/faolex

- Research
  Legislative studies, legal guides & legal papers

- International instruments
  Development and implementation at the national level

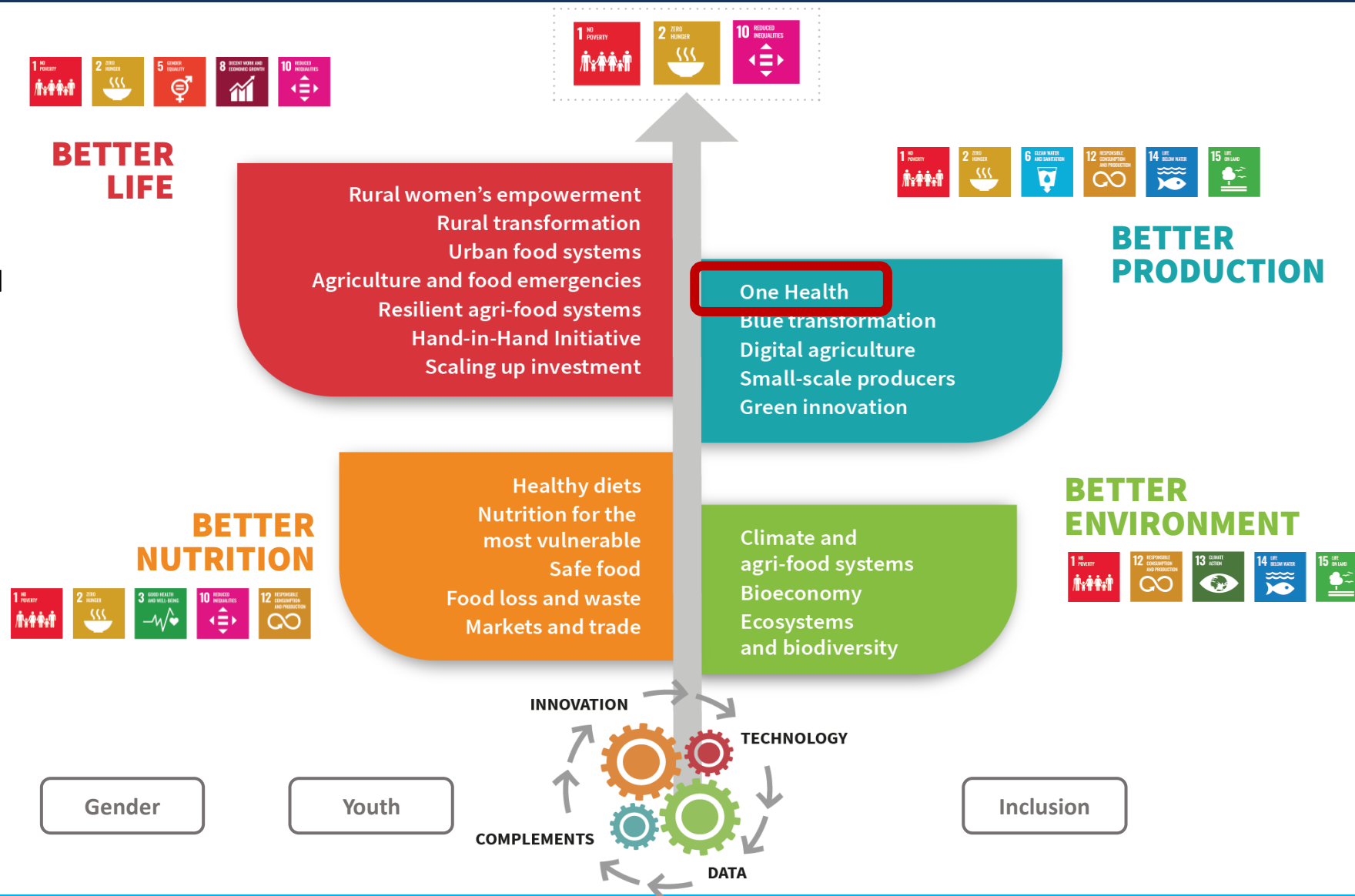**LEGAL BRIEFS AND GUIDES**

PUBLICATIONS

DATABASES

WEBINARS

DRAFT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

E-LEARNING

Global Quadripartite Secretariat
(Resource mobilization & communication taskforces)

One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP)

ONE HEALTH JOINT PLAN OF ACTION (2022-2026)

WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE HEALTH OF HUMANS, ANIMALS, PLANTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
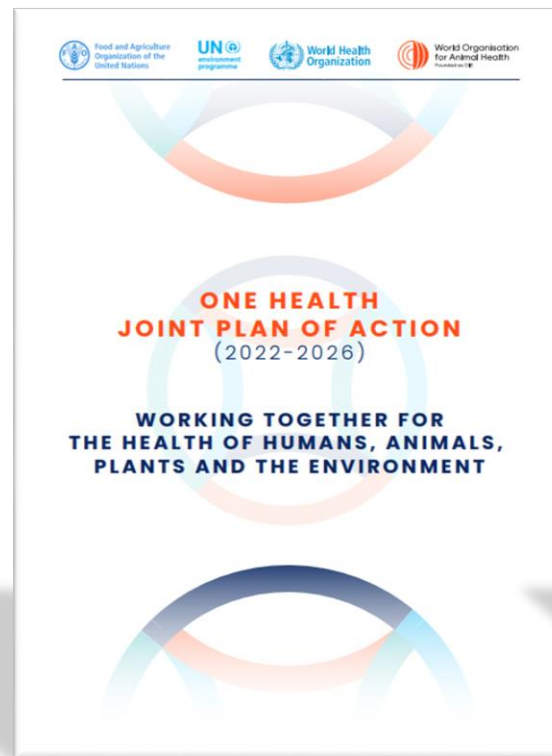
OH JPA, published in October 2022
Available in all UN languages and Turkish

A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level
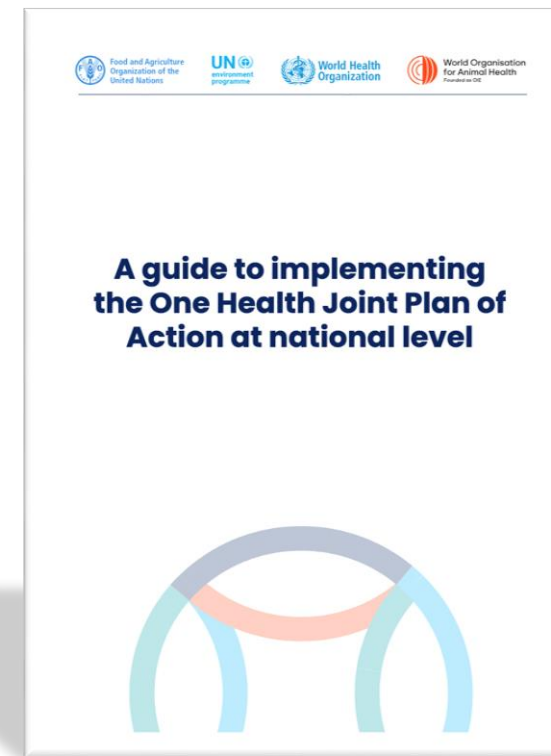
OH JPA Implementation Guide,
published in December 2023

OHHLEP definition of One Health and Key underlying principles

Equity

Socioecological equilibrium

Stewardship

Definition:

- One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent.

- The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development.
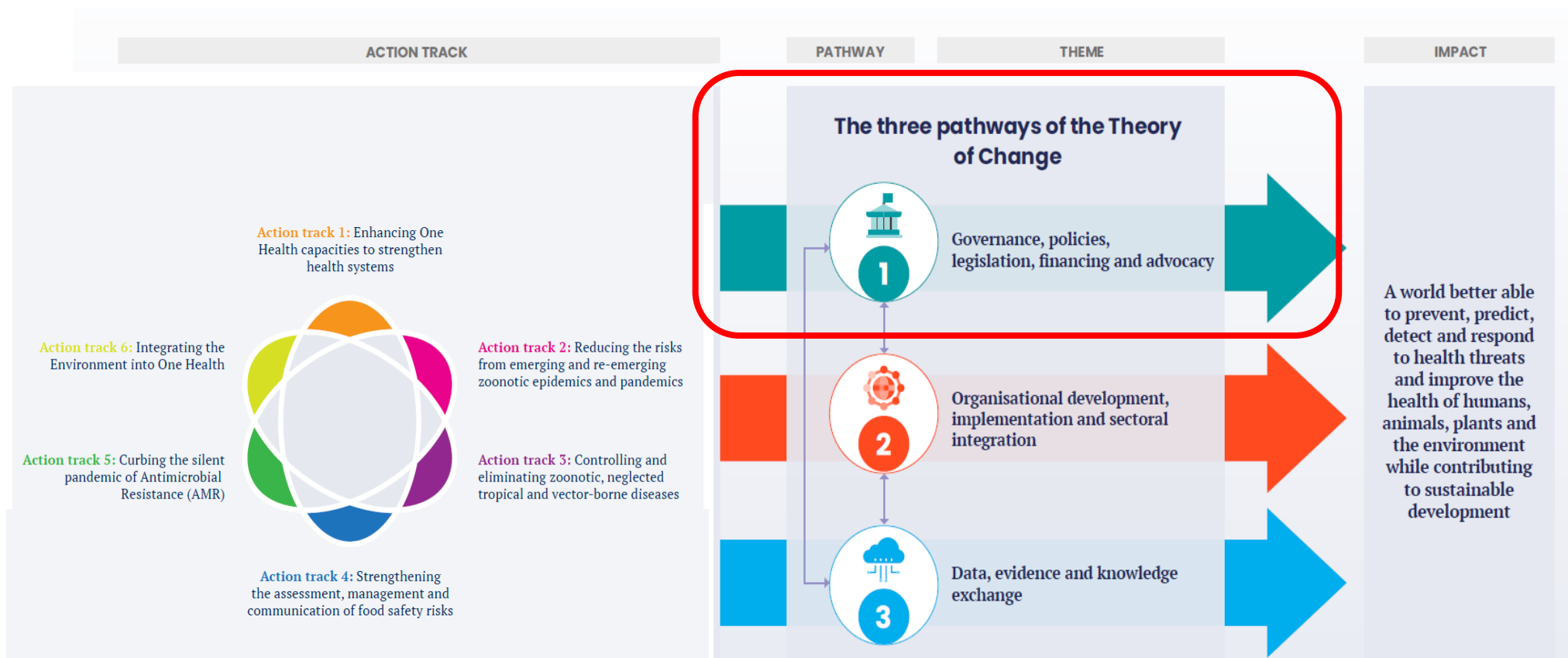
Socio-political and multicultural parity

Transdisciplinarity

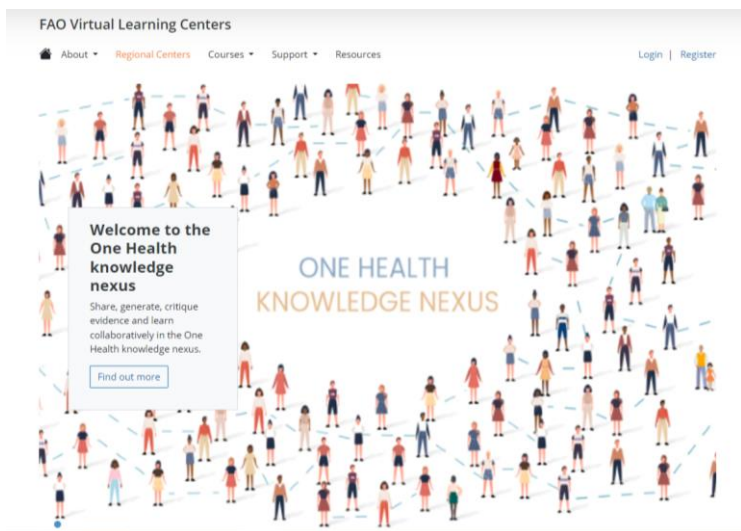https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/local/vlcs/view.php?id=12

Interactive space for collective knowledge generation and learning – hosted by the FAO Virtual Learning Centre

- ✓ Community of practice (CoPs) building around selected topics – based on needs (virtual and face to face)
- ✓ Knowledge generation, exchange and learning
- ✓ Resources, community interactions, learning space, social space - all within the dedicated online space for a respective Community of Practice and connected through the One Health Knowledge Nexus
- ✓ Basic expectation is that community learning and support allows for knowledge generation and application (incl. innovation)

What lawyers see….

Animal Health law

Pesticide legislation
Soil quality laws

Farming and animal production legislation

Food safety law

Waste management Law

Water law

Aquaculture law

Waste disposal law

Pharmaceutical compounds

Humans & pet animals
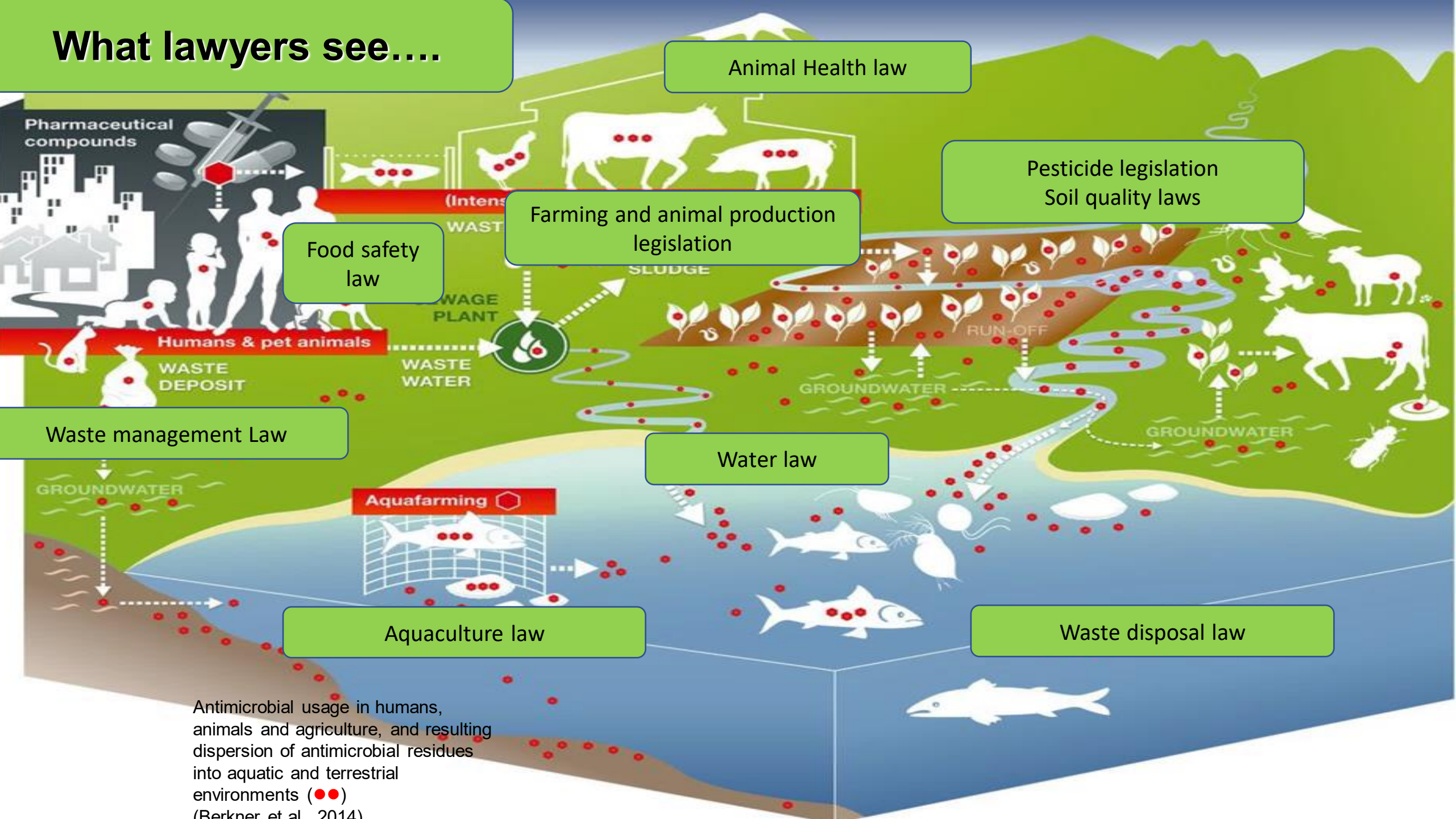
Antimicrobial usage in humans, animals and agriculture, and resulting dispersion of antimicrobial residues into aquatic and terrestrial environments (●●)
(Berkner, et al., 2014)

The role of legislation for OH
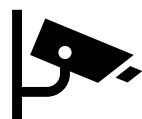
Turns policy objectives into clear obligations and makes them sustainable

Clarifies roles and responsibilities of governments and stakeholders (i.e. data sharing)

Sets up institutional mechanisms for coordination and collaboration

Establishes regulatory mechanisms (i.e. EIA, management plans, licenses and permits), including control and enforcement

Recognizes individual and community rights (participation, access to information)
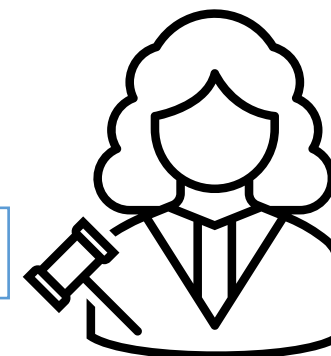
What does LEGN do on One Health legislation?

http://www.fao.org/legal-services/en/

Identification of Legal actionable entry points

Recommendations to mainstream appropriate obligations and responsibilities in the relevant legislation

Support to participatory processes for legal reform

LEGAL INFORMATION – FAOLEX (http://www.fao.org/faolex/en/)

LEGN work on One Health legal frameworks

Research
- What is One Health from a regulatory perspective
- How to mainstream it across international and national regulatory frameworks
- Identify actionable legal regulatory entry points to create an enabling regulatory environment for OH

Implementation
- Support to countries in setting up multisectoral structures support OH interventions (institutional integration)
- Promoting normative integration (connections across different laws and regulations that facilitate coordination and shared objectives)
- Introducing legal actionable entry points for OH in national legislation
- Support to mainstreaming One Health in international law instruments (Pandemics, Plastics Agreements)

(Non-exhaustive list of) Legal areas relevant to OH/ that would benefit from a OH approach

- Food safety
- Animal health
- Plant health
- Biosecurity
- AMR

- Pesticides and agrochemicals
- Waste water
- Plastics
- Other pollution sources (chemical and organic)

Agriculture Health (food safety, animal and plant health)

Pollution control

Sustainable agrifood systems

Natural resources management

- Animal production
- Plant production
- Human-rights, vulnerable groups
- Indigenous peoples
- Participatory processes of legal reform
- DRR and emergency prevention and control (legal preparedness)

- Biodiversity/ nature restoration
- Forestry
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Land and Water
- Soil health
- Sustainable wildlife management
- Community based management

Examples of LEGN work on One Health legal frameworks

METHODOLOGY TO ANALYSE AMR-RELEVANT LEGISLATION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR — GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR REGULATORS — DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Demand a One Health approach

Quadripartite One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance — Short version
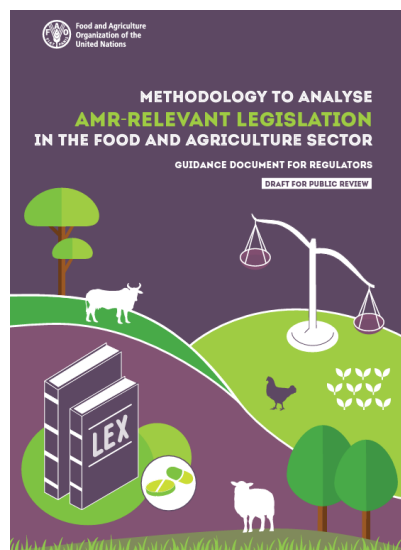
- Objective: support countries in the revision and update of their AMR-relevant legislation

- Covers different sectors: AMR governance, public health, food safety, animal health and veterinary medicines, pesticides, plant health and environment

- <u>NOT</u> a Guidance document. Based on existing international guidance.

One Health Legislative Assesment Tool for AMR: results

Cross-cutting AMR legislation

Public Health | Food Safety | Animal Health | Plant Health | Pesticides | Environment

One Health
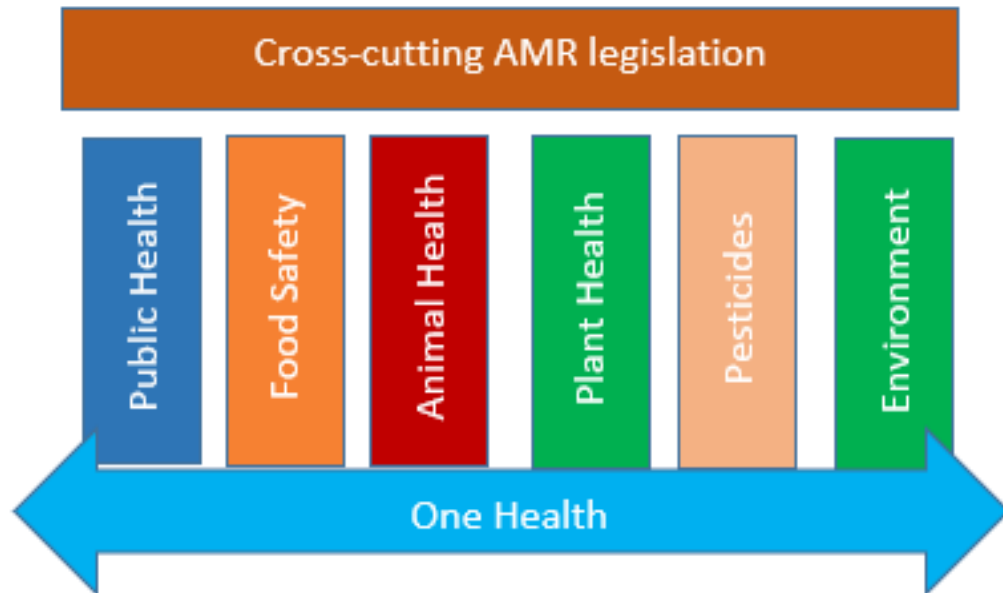
- Legislation is instrumental to implement AMR policy objectives and make them enforceable and sustainable

- A legal architecture to address AMR requires a combination of sector-specific and cross sectoral legal responses

- Cross sectoral legislation should not introduce sector specific elements, as that would lead to **legal fragmentation.**

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the

DEVELOPMENT
LAW SERVICE

SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME

LEGAL HUB

INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGES

The development and enforcement of appropriate legal frameworks is critical to help conserve wildlife, reduce poverty and improve food security.

Legal frameworks should reflect a diversity of interests. This includes environmental sustainability, socio-economic development (particularly for rural communities whose livelihoods depend on wildlife), customary use and traditional knowledge, gender equity, vulnerable and indigenous groups, and food security.

It is often difficult to reconcile all these aspects and interests across the different sectoral legislation that forms part of the national regulatory framework.

OUR RESPONSE

To address this challenge, the SWM Programme has developed five diagnostic tools (T) and relevant methodologies (M), founded on a Community Rights-Based Approach, which aim to:

- Map relevant statutory legal framework (T), (M);
- Review domestication of relevant international instruments (T), (M) ;
- Analyse consistency across sectoral legislations and identify potential gaps (T), (M);
- Clarify the relationships between statutory and customary law (T), (M); and
- Identify the barriers to implementation and/or enforcement of laws (T), (M).

These tools require both desk work and field surveys. All the desk work analysis is available on this Legal Hub. The Legal Country Profiles, which include both desk work and field survey information, aim to improve our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the legal frameworks. Such knowledge, combined with the evidence from other SWM Programme areas of work, will help inform the review and revision of legal frameworks aligned with country priorities.

This work was prepared by the SWM Programme team responsible for the "Legal and Institutional Result" and further endorsed by the respective host governments, before being uploaded on this web portal.

Concluding reflections

➢ One Health is part of dynamic of Integration (sustainable development, ecosystems approach, integrated water management, Agenda 21 and SDGs)

➢ Some actionable legal entry points for introducing OH into legislation may include:

▪ Normative integration: references to shared objectives across different sector-specific legislation

▪ Institutional integration: Concrete mechanisms to foster collaboration

▪ Stakeholder participation and access. Recognition of customary rights and community-based management

▪ Stewardship. Good management mechanisms (EIA, management plans)

▪ Importance of involving legal experts for better regulation, compliance and enforcement

Thank You