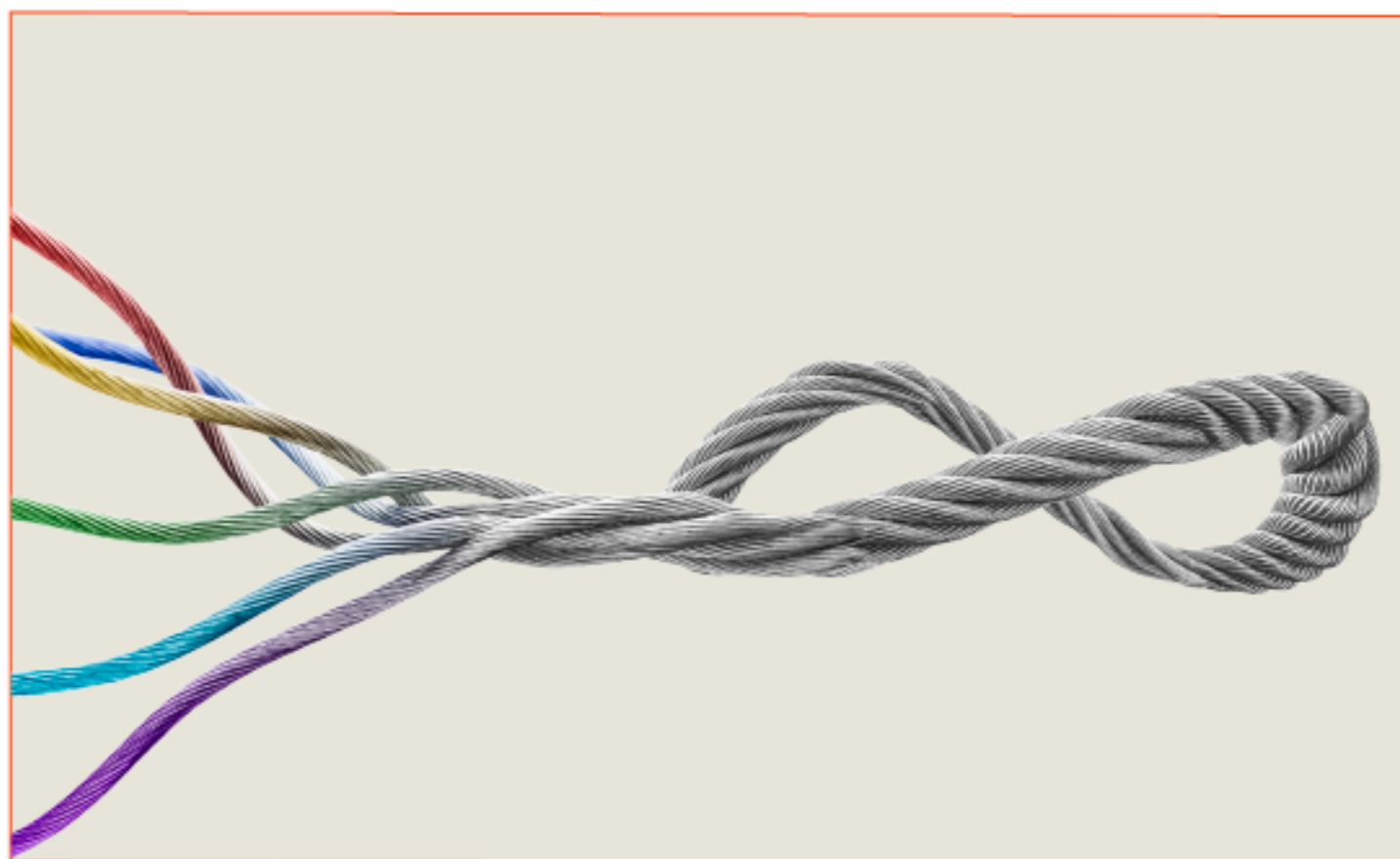


Panorama

Bulletin 2023-1

Editorial
Perspectives
Dossier
Around the World
Resources



Building Leadership in Veterinary Services



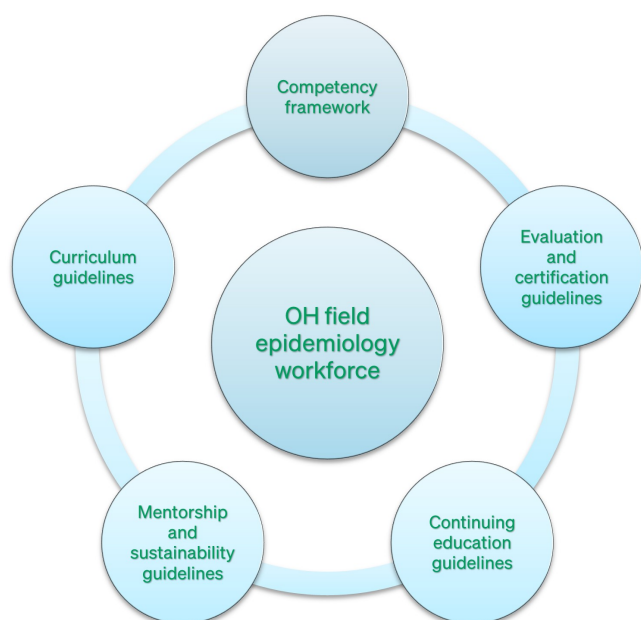
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A properly trained workforce in field epidemiology is essential to strengthen national capabilities in disease surveillance, epidemiological investigations, and outbreak preparedness and response. Therefore, the global public health, animal health and environmental health communities recognise interoperable field epidemiology training as a priority area for workforce development to strengthen health security.

Although more than 100 field epidemiology training programmes for human and animal health are already being implemented in more than 165 countries, internationally accepted competencies for field epidemiologists working in animal health, public health or environmental health within a One Health context have not yet been established.

A One Health (OH) field epidemiology competency framework was designed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), to support the human, animal and environmental health workforce in developing collaborative capacities to be applied at the frontline, intermediate and advanced levels of expertise.



The competency framework – encompassing 10 technical and 4 functional domains – describes the knowledge, skills and competencies required at the three levels and classifies them as minimum core competencies or optional competencies under a One Health approach, in addition to sector-specific competencies for human, animal and environmental health.

A prioritisation tool was also designed to facilitate country-level prioritisation of competencies in the framework and may lead to harmonised competencies at regional and subregional level, thus also enabling worker mobility.

The competency framework is complemented by guidelines on curriculum development, mentorship and sustainability, continuing education, and graduate evaluation and certification.

The OH field epidemiology framework, tool and supplementary guidelines are intended to provide guidance to ensure that epidemiologists can work within the OH approach with the goal of assisting countries in assessing and improving the quality and scope of their field epidemiology training programmes.

The quality and comprehensiveness of the proposed framework are being assessed by a Technical Advisory Group consisting of more than 60 international experts, representing all geographical regions.

The competency framework and its accompanying guidelines are expected to be published in 2023 and are likely to be piloted in 2024–26 to evaluate their effectiveness in the field.

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DOSSIER

One Health capacities for field epidemiologists: The FAO/WHO/WOAH competency framework

SUMMARY

The FAO/WHO/WOAH One Health field epidemiology competency framework is the first global initiative to develop One Health competency guidelines for training programmes in field epidemiology.

KEYWORDS

#biosurveillance, #capacity building, #education, #epidemiology, #field epidemiology competency framework, #Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), #food security, #guidelines, #One Health, #public health, #surveillance, #training, #Tripartite (FAO/WOAH/WHO), #veterinary workforce, #World Health Organization (WHO), #World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

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