



# One Health Concept

**For Prelims:** WHO, UNEP, WHO

**For Mains:** One Health Concept and its Significance

## Why in News?

Recently, a new One Health Joint Plan of Action was launched by the Quadripartite—the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), and the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#), founded as OIE).

- In April 2022 a [pilot project in the state of Uttarakhand](#) was launched to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.

## What is One Health Joint Plan of Action?

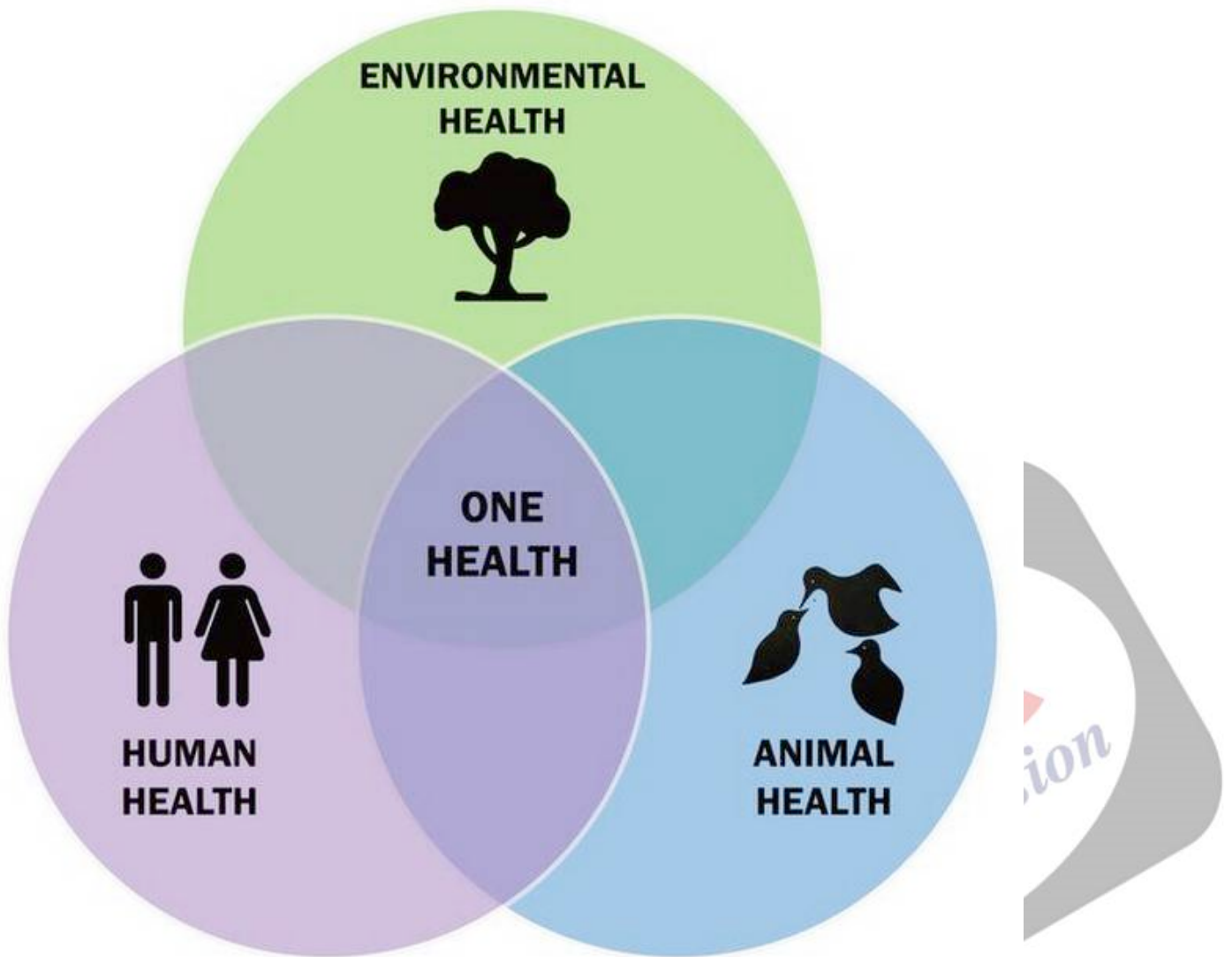
### ▪ About:

- The Action plan developed through a participatory process, provided a set of activities that **aim to strengthen collaboration, communication, capacity building and coordination** equally across all sectors responsible for addressing health concerns at the human-animal-plant-environment interface.
- The plan is valid from 2022-2026 and is aimed at mitigating the health challenges at global, regional, and country levels.

### ▪ Focus Areas of the Action Plan:

- One Health capacity for health systems
- Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics
- [Endemic zoonotic](#)
- Neglected tropical and **vector-borne diseases**
- [Antimicrobial resistance](#) and the environment
- Food safety risks

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## What is the One Health Concept?

### ▪ About:

- One Health is an **approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals** and our shared environment.
- One Health' vision derives its blueprint from the agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance comprising the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).
- It's purpose is to **encourage collaborations in research and sharing of knowledge** at multiple levels across various disciplines like human health, animal health, plants, soil, environmental and ecosystem health in ways that improve, protect and defend the health of all species.

## Why has the One Health Concept become more Important?

- **Human Expansion:** Human populations are **growing and expanding into new geographic areas** due to which close contact with animals and their environments provides more opportunities for diseases to pass between animals and people.
  - Of the contagious diseases affecting humans, more than 65% are of zoonotic or animal to man origin.
- **Environmental Disruptions:** Disruptions in environmental conditions and habitats can provide new opportunities for diseases to pass to animals.
- **International Travel & Trade:** The movement of people, animals, and animal products has

increased from international travel and trade due to which diseases can spread quickly across borders and around the globe.

- **Viruses in Wildlife:** Scientists have observed that there are more than 1.7 million viruses circulating in wildlife, and many of them are likely to be zoonotic.
  - This implies that unless there is timely detection, India risks facing many more pandemics in times to come.

## Way Forward

- The **Covid-19 pandemic** showed the relevance of 'One Health' principles in the governance of infectious diseases, especially efforts to prevent and contain **zoonotic diseases** throughout the world.
- India needs to scale up such a model across the country and to establish meaningful research collaborations across the world.
- There is a **need to develop best-practice guidelines for informal market** and slaughterhouse operation (e.g., inspections, disease prevalence assessments), and creating mechanisms to operationalise 'One Health' at every stage down to the village level.
- Awareness generation, and increased investments toward meeting 'One Health' targets is the need of the hour.

**Source: DTE**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/one-health-concept-1>

