

NATURE4HEALTH

Preventing pandemics together

There is a compelling case for preventing the next pandemic. About 60% of human infections originate from animals, and the estimation jumps to 75% for new human infectious diseases.¹ Drivers of this spillover include climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices, ecosystem degradation, wildlife trade and, overall, our broken relationship with nature.

The greatest burden of zoonotic disease is borne by low-income communities, however as shown by the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging infectious diseases can also have significant global economic and health impacts. With costs that run into the trillions. It's simple math: the costs of preventing pandemics are far less than the costs of managing a global outbreak, with plenty of additional benefits.

Nature for Health (N4H) is a multi-partner trust fund working to prevent zoonotic spillovers by strengthening the environmental aspects of One Health, an inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary approach that focuses on where the health of people, animals and environments converge. Join us in preventing pandemics together.

Biodiversity, climate change and human wellbeing are strongly interlinked, as the COVID-19 pandemic has amply demonstrated. The prevention of zoonotic disease emergence and spread and other health related risks require strategically interlinked approaches across different sectors to contribute meaningfully and effectively to "One Health" outcomes. However, public health policies and programmes often focus on treatment for human diseases – leaving aside long-term prevention, which necessarily requires strengthening of biodiversity conservation and integrating animal and environmental health considerations into One Health. Conversely, policymakers and other stakeholders in the broader environmental sector usually do not have the capacity or resources to integrate disease prevention into the planning, management and implementation of conservation and sustainable-use actions.

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.

One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP)

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Nature for Health (N4H) is a global initiative, working nationally to reduce future pandemics and related health risks. We are committed to support the development of holistic and coordinated policies, generate and disseminate evidence on the links between biodiversity, climate change and health and support decision makers and other relevant actors to take measures focused on prevention.

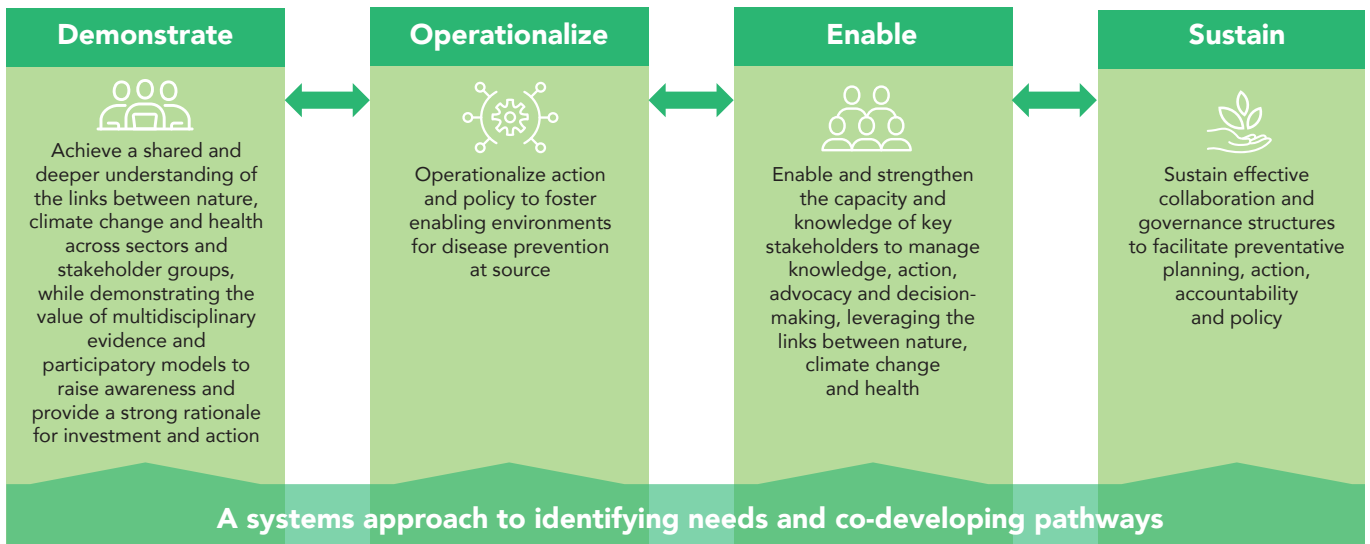
By catalysing integrated policymaking, evidence-based action on the ground and capacity development across sectors (e.g. health, environment, development) and through robust governance mechanisms, we will have a significant impact at local, national, regional and international levels.

N4H will work in low- and middle-income countries where the risk of animal to human disease transmission is high, and there are challenges in managing them.

National or sub-national government entities are invited to join the Nature for Health initiative, with a handful to be selected for the first phase of work starting in 2022. Within current funding, N4H plans to work, in different phases, with about 18 countries (or states or regions) over 8 years.

Based on context and need, N4H will bring together implementation teams in each country including policy decision makers, technical experts, the affected communities and other relevant stakeholders. Partners will identify current issues and priorities and work inclusively with multi-sectoral stakeholders, using systems approaches to co-develop pathways and deliver transformational changes at scale.

N4H considers four critical elements to implement preventative One Health approaches:



N4H was initiated by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) with a contribution of €50 million in seed funding/capital. BMUV is one of eight Consortium Partners, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and EcoHealth Alliance, who bring extensive multisectoral and diverse One Health practical experiences. N4H is hosted by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) and the Secretariat is based at UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya.

The N4H governance structure includes a Steering Committee, with representation from each Consortium Partner organization, responsible for strategic guidance, with an Advisory Board providing additional technical expertise. N4H is looking for additional technical, financial and implementing partners to be part of this exciting initiative.

At the heart of our response to zoonoses and the other challenges humanity faces should be the simple idea that the health of humanity depends on the health of the planet and the health of other species. If humanity gives nature a chance to breathe, it will be our greatest ally as we seek to build a fairer, greener and safer world for everyone.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Please visit www.nature4health.net for further details and current information. Contact N4H at info@nature4health.net