

## RESPOND

# SUCCESS STORY – AFRICA

## OHCEA Launches In-service One Health Leadership Training



A group works on creating One Health strategic road maps



**March 2014, Eastern Africa.** Following the regional One Health leadership training that was developed and implemented by OHCEA (One Health Central and Eastern Africa) in December 2013, OHCEA launched its In-Service One Health leadership training for the Eastern Africa region in February and March 2014. The program benefitted 152 participants in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The training targeted local government officials with representation from the departments relevant to the implementation of a One Health approach including planning, education, agriculture, environment, community development, medical, and veterinary agencies. District officials were joined by representatives from national-level ministries, government departments, and civil society organizations chosen on the basis of their potential to influence One Health at the national level.

OHCEA's master trainers facilitated technical and content support from the University of Minnesota and Tufts University. The training provided an understanding of the One Health approach and imparted the four pillars of One Health leadership and communications skills: team work and team building, strategic visioning and planning, change management, and communications. The goal was for participants to become champions of the adoption of a One Health approach. In each country participants created strategic road maps detailing the next steps in addressing the priority health issues for their respective communities, and how to address them taking a One Health approach. The training had an immediate impact with one district group in Uganda stating as its vision: *"A district with a well coordinated One Health service delivery system that promotes healthy animals, prosperous communities and a sustainable ecosystem."*

The participants came from the training energized and determined. In Jimma, Ethiopia participants acted pro-actively by creating a One Health Civil Servants Club that will serve as a hub for participants to exchange ideas and share progress on the implementation of the One Health road map for their district. This is just one example of how the in-service training of health professionals will empower a much larger contingent of One Health leaders from across the OHCEA region.