

RESPOND

SUCCESS STORY: EAST CONGO

OHCEA (One Health Central and Eastern Africa) sensitizations attract hundreds of students and faculty interested in One Health.



1 - Jimma University president, Dr. Fikre Lemessa, addresses faculty at a One Health sensitization meeting; 2-Front gate of campus housing College of Public Health and Medical Sciences, Jimma University;

The first three months of 2012 have been exciting ones for RESPOND and OHCEA. Through student and faculty One Health sensitizations, lead by RESPOND U.S. university partners (University of Minnesota and Tufts University), hundreds of students and faculty participated in One Health activities, sharing ideas and models.

There were a number of common goals that emerged from all of the meetings:

- The importance of communications and information sharing;
- Faculty and student exchanges;
- Methodologies to develop trans-disciplinary collaboration;
- Sharing of ‘best practices’;
- Expanding partnership opportunities between OHCEA member institutions and their U.S.-based RESPOND counterparts.

Five out of the six OHCEA countries were involved in the sensitizations. Below is an example of the activities carried out in Ethiopia:

Jimma University and Mekelle University (Ethiopia): The critical need for additional PhD graduates and programs, research partnership opportunities, and short courses for skills development for faculty and students, were the top three areas highlighted during in a trans-disciplinary discussion at Jimma University.

An overview of One Health approaches to address Emerging Pandemic Threats, the RESPOND project, examples from the University of Minnesota and Tufts University on different One Health approaches and activities, OHCEA's development and activities in Ethiopia, were all covered as part of the sensitization meetings.

At Mekelle University, plenary discussions identified key goals and activities. E-learning, communications/information sharing, faculty and student exchanges, opportunities for trans-disciplinary collaboration, and partnership with other Ethiopian universities, were highlighted examples.

A number of opportunities were identified during the sensitizations for immediate engagement:

- formation of a zoonotic disease working groups in each of the OHCEA member universities;
- formation of field sites for multidisciplinary collaboration and partnerships (particularly DRC and Tanzania);
- development of private sector One Health training materials;
- development and establishment of an African “engaging intergovernmental organizations course” in collaboration with AU-IBAR and local agencies;
- development of health policy-related courses (local/national /international level);
- expansion of wildlife veterinary skills training.

Other universities and schools visited during the sensitizations were:

- **University of Nairobi College of Health Sciences (Kenya)**
- **Moi University (Kenya)**
- **University of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo)**
- **Umatara Polytechnic University (Rwanda)**
- **Makerere University (Uganda)**

More photos of the One Health sensitizations in the six OHCEA countries can be found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.441458792538048.129716.120761677941096&type=1#!/photo.php?fbid=441458889204705&set=a.441458792538048.129716.120761677941096&type=3&theater>.