World Organisation for Animal Health

CASE STUDY

Implementing One Health: Country experiences and lessons learnt

One Health in Action: Fukuoka Prefecture – Advancing One Health at the sub-national level in Japan

Issue Overview and One Health Context

Fukuoka prefecture in western Japan recognises that addressing critical issues like zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as other emerging health threats, requires cross-sectoral and system-based response. Factors such as evolving human-animal relationships, global warming, and ecosystem degradation have underscored the need for an integrated OH approach. The prefecture has a strong history of promoting One Health, notably as the birthplace of the 2016 Fukuoka Declaration, adopted at the 2nd Global Conference on One Health (GCOH).

Building on this foundation, Fukuoka enacted Japan's first One Health Promotion Basic Ordinance in 2020, providing a legal framework for advancing multisectoral collaboration. In 2022, the prefecture developed its comprehensive Fukuoka One Health Action Plan to operationalise this ordinance. Guided by this plan, the prefecture actively collaborates with its residents, businesses, related organisations, municipalities, neighboring municipalities and the national government to implement measures to foster a harmonious society where the health of people, and animals and the environment coexist in harmony.

© 2nd Global Conference on One Health

Representatives of the World Veterinary Association, World Medical Association, Japan Medical Association and Japan Veterinary Medical Association in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan

Solution and Mitigation Strategies

Establishing a Legal and Policy Framework

Fukuoka's pioneering One Health Promotion Basic Ordinance established six fundamental policies to address issues using the One Health approach:

- Prevention of zoonotic diseases
- Addressing of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Protection of the environment and ecosystems
- Creation of a coexistence society for humans and animals
- Promotion of human health and well-being
- Cultivation of better relationsips among human, animal, and environment.

This ordinance provided the foundation for the **Fukuoka One Health Action Plan,** which translates these principles into actionable programmes across research, surveillance, education and public–private partnerships.

Institutional Innovation and Capacity Building

To enhance coordination, Fukuoka established the **One Health General Promotion Division,** which facilitates inter-sectoral collaboration across government agencies, academia and civil society.

The prefecture is also developing Japan's first One Health Centre in Miyama City, located in southern Fukuoka, and is expected be operational in 2027. This will be a practical base and include facilities for the Institute of Public Health and Environmental Sciences and an Animal Hygiene Service Centre. The Centre will conduct integrated research and surveys on One Health, and plans to enhance capacity for collaborative research and investigations with organisations and groups.

Engaging Society and Business

Since 2021, the **Fukuoka One Health International Forum** has been held annually in Fukuoka City, attracting hundreds of participants each time, including experts, policymakers and citizens, to share One Health innovations. The 2022 forum draws more than 800 in-person participants and has become a model for community-based science communication.

Businesses, organisations and entrepreneurs can join the **One Health Declaration Business Registration System** in Fukuoka Prefecture, by declaring their commitment to activities aligned with One Health principles. Activities include reducing plastic waste, raising awareness and educating on AMR, and promoting health through interaction with nature and animals.

The Prefecture also launched the **One Health Certification Label**, which certifies agricultural, forestry and fishery products and processed goods produced according to the One Health concept. For example, this includes environmentally sustainable farming practices and agricultural products.

Figure 1. Local Fukuoka produce with registered One Health label

Education and Public Awareness

Information booklets and videos have been produced to promote awareness of One Health for elementary, junior high and high-school students, and adults. This ensures long-term awareness and capacity building among youth, communities and professionals.

Stakeholders Involved

- Fukuoka Prefectural Government (Lead institution)
- Universities and research institutions
- Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA)
- FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office
- Global/international partners, e.g. University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine
- Medical and veterinary associations: local (Fukuoka Medical Association, Fukuoka Veterinary Medical Association) and more broadly national/international (e.g. WVA, JMA, JVMA)
- Business/private sector who register under the One Health Declaration Business Registration System
- Food/agricultural producers and certification bodies (involved via certification/labelling schemes under One Health)
- Educational institutions, in particular high schools with One Health Education programmes
- Environmental, wildlife, forestry and fisheries sectors

Impact and Outcomes

Outcomes to date are the following:

Education reach

The One Health International Forum commenced in 2022 (with 808 in-person participants and 566 live streaming viewers for that year). Strong growth in citizen engagement (e.g. approximately 2,500 and 7,500 participants, respectively, at public awareness events 'One Health Festa 2023'). One Health curriculum rollout started in 2023 across high schools and universities. Recognition efforts include PR fairs, TV commercials, and special sale corners in large retail stores.

System strengthening

Establishment of a One Health certification scheme for agriculture, forestry and fisheries in September 2022, with 11,814 certified producers/operations. Many businesses registered under the One Health Declaration Business Registration System (with a total of 11,347). Approximately 500 One Health certified products.

Research and policy

Expanded partnerships with two international organisations. International collaboration through FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office, which formally opened in August 2023 as FAVA's Japan office dedicated to One Health. FAVA ties Fukuoka into broader regional developments. MOU between University of Hawaï and Fukuoka Prefectural Government signed in 2023, with educational exchange and curriculum planning underway. Almost all the prefectural municipalities continue to declare their commitment to One Health.

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Publications

Annual report on implementation status of the Fukuoka One Health Promotion Action Plan. This includes policy and legal background, progress against action plan targets, indicators of impact, and future directions/targets. Data relating to One Health certified livestock operations and products under Fukuoka's One Health scheme are published in the *Fukuoka Prefectural Livestock Association's agenda book*, demonstrating how the livestock sector is aligning with prefectural policy.

Targets for the future:

- Anticipated impact: earlier detection of zoonoses, coordinated AMR control, healthier production systems, and more efficient surveillance.
- One Health Center, a human and animal health-focused effort with educational components, both expected to open in 2027.
- Expansion of education programmes across all high schools.
- 13,500 registered businesses by 2028.
- Continued expansion of certified operations and products.
- Strengthened branding and consumer awareness.

Implementation Challenges

Public awareness:
Raising awareness of the One Health concept among citizens was a key challenge. However, a prefectural survey in 2024 revealed that more than 50% of residents now recognise the concept.

Engagement barriers:
Communicating the clear benefits of participating in One Health initiatives, such as registering as a One Health-declared business or obtaining One Health certification, to encourage broader engagement.

Cross-sectoral collaboration:
Overcoming the persistent silo mentality within government sectors, which continues to make intersectoral collaboration difficult in many situations, the prefecture established the One Health General Promotion Division, specifically tasked with fostering comprehensive, cross-sectoral collaboration.

Research coordination:
Encouraging researchers, who often have their own specialised themes, to collaborate and promote new research across multiple sectors.

> *Fukuoka Prefecture has played a leading role in promoting One Health since the adoption of the Fukuoka Declaration at the 2016 Global Conference of the World Veterinary and Medical Associations. Building on this foundation, the Prefecture enacted Japan's first Basic Ordinance for Promoting One Health in 2020 and formulated this Action Plan to put its principles into practice.*
>
> *The promotion of One Health requires collaboration among citizens, businesses, organisations and government.*
>
> *Together, we will steadily advance shared goals to realise a society where human and animal health coexist in harmony with a sound and sustainable environment.*

Saitaro Hattori,
Fukuoka Prefectural
Governor

Lessons Learnt

- **Legal foundation ensures continuity:** enacting the One Health Promotion Ordinance anchored multi-sector collaboration beyond individual leaders.
- **Public engagement builds legitimacy:** events (e.g. One Health Festa), certification labels and media outreach made the concept tangible to citizens and businesses.
- **Education is a long-term investment:** integrating One Health into not only high school and university but also elementary and junior high school as well as kindergarten programmes cultivates awareness and future expertise.
- **International partnerships add value:** FAVA One Health Fukuoka Office and MoUs with UN-Habitat ROAP expanded capacity and visibility.
- **Practical best practice:** linking One Health to consumer choices (certified products) created everyday relevance.
- **Future improvement needed:** stronger data integration and clear impact indicators will enhance monitoring and accountability and essential for evaluating effectiveness and scaling success.

Relevance to the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA)

This case study provides a compelling, sub-national example of the OH JPA in its entirety. It fully addresses all three pathways:

Pathway 1: Policy and financing through the 2020 One Health Promotion Basic Ordinance.

Pathway 2: Institutional coordination via the One Health General Promotion Division and multi-sectoral partnerships.

Pathway 3: Data and evidence through the forthcoming One Health Center.

Simultaneously, the initiative covers all six Action Tracks: it strengthens One Health Capacities (Track 1) through education; enhances Zoonotic Disease Prevention (Track 2) and controls Endemic Diseases (Track 3) via integrated surveillance; protects the Environment (Track 6) and ensures Food Safety (Track 4) through certified sustainable products; and explicitly prioritises combating Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (Track 5) as a fundamental policy goal. Fukuoka's integrated model demonstrates how a local government can operationalise the OH JPA through policy, partnerships and participatory governance, offering a replicable framework for other regions.

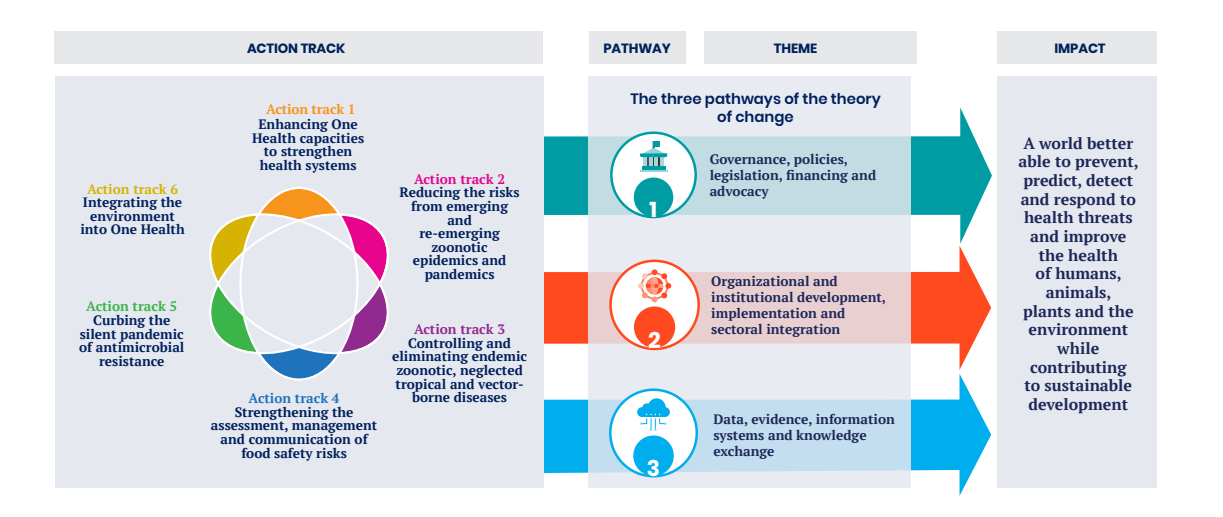

Figure 2. Pathways of Change and Action Tracks of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA)

Resources

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Implementing One Health: Country experiences and lessons learnt is a series of case studies showcasing practical examples of how the One Health approach is applied at national and local levels. The series highlights multisectoral collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sectors, demonstrating how countries operationalize the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) to address complex health challenges. Each case study provides insights into the strategies, interventions, and tools used to strengthen surveillance, improve risk management, and support evidence-based decision-making. By capturing successes, challenges, and lessons learnt, this collection serves as a resource for policymakers, practitioners, and partners to inform the adaptation and scaling up of One Health initiatives globally, reinforcing the value of integrated approaches for health security and sustainable development.

Implementing One Health Case Studies is an initiative of the One Health team at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Headquarters, under the leadership of **Dr Chadia Wannous**, WOAH OH Global Coordinator, with the support of **Kurmanzhan Dastanbek**, WOAH OH Project Manager.

This case study was produced by Fukuoka Prefectural Government (One Health General Promotion Division), with support from **Lesa Thompson**, Deputy Regional Representative of the WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

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