

## Terms of Reference: Consultant – Action for Animal Health Evidence Building

Brooke is an international NGO aiming to improve the health and welfare of working horses, donkeys and mules across the world. We achieve this by engaging communities to build their capacity to improve equid welfare, strengthening local animal health systems, and through advocating key global players to effect changes in policies and practices for the mutual benefit of both animals and the households whose livelihoods depend on them.

In early 2020, Brooke established the Action for Animal Health coalition. The COVID-19 pandemic put the spotlight on the devastating effect of and the increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases, and the need for better investment in animal health systems. There are many individual efforts by civil society to advance the welfare of animals, combat particular diseases, and to strengthen parts of animal health systems – but it was recognised that to have transformational change we need to come together as a coalition and advocate for investment in the system as a whole.

## Background

The concept of One Health has gained political traction since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic as it has put the increasing interactions between people and animals sharply into focus. This is the key entry point for the initiative. Collaboration between and strengthening of human, animal and environmental systems is essential to tackle the existing pandemic and prevent future ones, as well as to make progress towards income security, food security and to end environmental destruction. Yet, the historic underinvestment of animal health systems hinder the operationalisation of One Health.

The fact that there are no binding international commitments on One Health or animal health also makes it difficult to hold governments to account.

We want to see action in five areas of animal health:

1. Support community engagement and access to services
2. Increase and improve the animal health workforce
3. Close the veterinary medicines and vaccines gap
4. Improve animal disease surveillance
5. Enhance collaboration for One Health

## The Brooke Hospital for Animals

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By strengthening animal health systems in five areas, we will achieve improved animal health and welfare, leading to a secure income, food security and improved health and wellbeing of people. By April 2026, national governments and international agencies have acknowledged the importance of animal welfare and animal health systems by increasing the level of spending on animal health systems. Animal health and welfare is recognised as an essential pillar of One Health within global policy (i.e. SDG 3).

## Purpose of report

The aim of the research is to provide an overview of available evidence in the form of an advocacy report to back up the 'asks' of the Action for Animal Health coalition and make the case for investing in animal health systems.

The coalition has produced [a call-to-action document](#), which details our key asks and the areas of animal health systems we believe need strengthening to implement One Health. However, we need to lay out the available evidence to support these key asks and make the case for investing in animal health systems to convince decision-makers to take action.

The report will provide an overview of the current state of animal health systems in lower and middle income countries and make the case for why governments should invest more (in terms of finances and human resource) in animal health to operationalise One Health, improve animal welfare, and achieve the SDGs (particularly with regards to hunger, poverty and good health) – and why animal health needs recognition in international frameworks (e.g. a new pandemic treaty).

The subsequent report will make recommendations on priority areas for investment, aimed at both implementing governments and donors, as well as multilateral organisations.

## Audience

In terms of decision-makers, the report is aimed at Ministers of Finance, Ministers of Health and Ministers of Foreign Affairs in both implementing countries and influential countries (e.g. G20 and G7). As a secondary audience, it is aimed at amplifiers and influencers such as OIE, FAO, WHO and UNEP (the Tripartite Plus), as well as the One Health High Level Expert Panel who can help to carry these messages.

The report will be utilised by coalition members and their country offices in advocacy the national level, international level and global level.

## Guiding questions

We have put together the following questions to guide evidence collection:

- What evidence is available to support the coalition's asks to decision-makers at national and international level? Where are the gaps?
- To what extent are animal health systems enhancing or hindering the operationalisation of One Health, including its contribution to human health and environmental health/protection, and the SDGs?
- How can investment in the above areas help to achieve the SDGs and the operationalisation of One Health? What are the implications if it does not happen?
- Are decision-makers at national, international and global level giving enough priority to animal health systems?

We would like to collect evidence on:

- The accessibility of animal health systems to people in LMICs who rely on animals for livelihoods
- Numbers and skill level of animal health workers, and if this is adequate to ensure animal health and the operationalisation of One Health
- Whether animal health workers are able to access animal medicines and vaccines
- Adequacy of surveillance systems to report both zoonotic and non-zoonotic animals disease from the community level upwards
- Ability of animal health systems to participate in One Health initiatives

### Main activities

Once a consultant has been recruited, we would be happy to discuss and revise the below activities. At the moment, we envisage the main activities to be the following:

- 1) Literature review of published papers, civil society reports, including those written by coalition members, and other materials to determine available evidence to support the above asks
- 2) Interrogation of the PVS pathway reports to assess numbers of animal health workers and adequacy of animal health services
- 3) Semi-structured key informant interviews with national or international decision-makers and those with a good overview of the current situation (e.g. Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, members of the One Health High Level Expert Panel), to better understand how much priority decision-makers are giving to animal health systems

- 4) Writing a compelling advocacy report, 10,000–15,000 words, including policy recommendations aimed at the audiences listed above
- 5) Comply with relevant Brooke policies and procedures
- 6) To check in with coalition coordinator on a regular basis to update on progress

We also aim to write a peer-reviewed research paper and policy brief, based on the advocacy report that will be written by coalition members themselves. We would like the consultant to provide us with a summary of their analysis to support us in writing a research paper for publishing in particular.

### Key deliverables

- An initial proposal with methodology and ethical considerations
- Participation in Animal Welfare Ethical Research Body (Brooke's ethical approval board)
- Report outline
- Draft report
- Final report after receiving comments from Brooke and coalition members
- Presentation to coalition of findings
- Summary of data analysed and results to allow coalition members to author a peer-reviewed paper

### Timeframe

We expect this project to take place between December and mid-May, and envisage this will be 20–24 days of work.

### Process for application

- Degree relevant to One Health, Global Health, and/or Animal Health
- Significant experience in policy research, research for advocacy and campaigning, and experience in policy influencing for a well-known civil society organisation or multilateral organisation
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Spanish is an advantage.



- Ability to write in clear, compelling language to contribute to convincing decision-makers to act

Consultants are invited to submit an application by **Wednesday 1 December to [ellie.parravani@thebrooke.org](mailto:ellie.parravani@thebrooke.org)**. Please include:

1. A comment on this Terms of Reference and proposed methodology, maximum of 600 words
2. An up-to-date CV
3. Daily consulting fee and total estimated cost, including expenses incurred from telephone/online interviews
4. An example of a similar work

For more information please contact Ellie Parravani [ellie.parravani@thebrooke.org](mailto:ellie.parravani@thebrooke.org)