

Advancing Global Partnerships: The Essential Role of Multisectoral Coordination in PREVENT, DETECT, and RESPOND Activities Towards a Safer and Healthier World

1 BACKGROUND

Multisectoral Problems Require Multisectoral Solutions

Responding to the emerging zoonotic and other infectious disease threats requires the collective and coordinated efforts of multiple technical sectors and disciplines – an approach known as One Health multisectoral coordination. Effective multisectoral coordination is not easy to accomplish, much less easy to sustain at the national level. But without it, national governments will continue to work without strategic alignment among the sectors, and sometimes at cross-purposes, during the critical early moments of an outbreak and potentially beyond.

Drawing on the USAID Preparedness & Response (P&R) project's implementation experience in 16 countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, P&R conducted a qualitative analysis of key informant interviews to identify key attributes of effective One Health coordination, offer examples of improved and sustainable coordination activities, and show how formal multisectoral mechanisms contribute to improved health security.

2 PROGRAMS

Evaluating Multisectoral Perspectives

Findings are based on analysis of multiple sources. First, P&R conducted qualitative research across three broad research themes related to multisectoral coordination:

- What factors enable or support effective multisectoral coordination for health security?
- What factors are essential to sustain multisectoral/ One Health coordination for health security?
- How does a One Health approach lead to improved health outcomes?

The research team employed a design and sampling methodology that included informants directly involved in One Health coordination. Stakeholders from P&R, national government ministries, implementing partners, and donor organizations were interviewed. A literature review and implementation experience of the P&R project also informed our findings. There is very limited quantitative data on One Health coordination in literature.

There were 61 interviews conducted. While interviews were structured by key informant interview guides, interviews allowed for flexible conversations and open-ended follow-up questions. Verbal consent was obtained prior to interview, and participants were made aware of the purpose of the research and provided the opportunity to opt out at any time. Participation was voluntary and unremunerated.

3 GRAPHICS SECTION

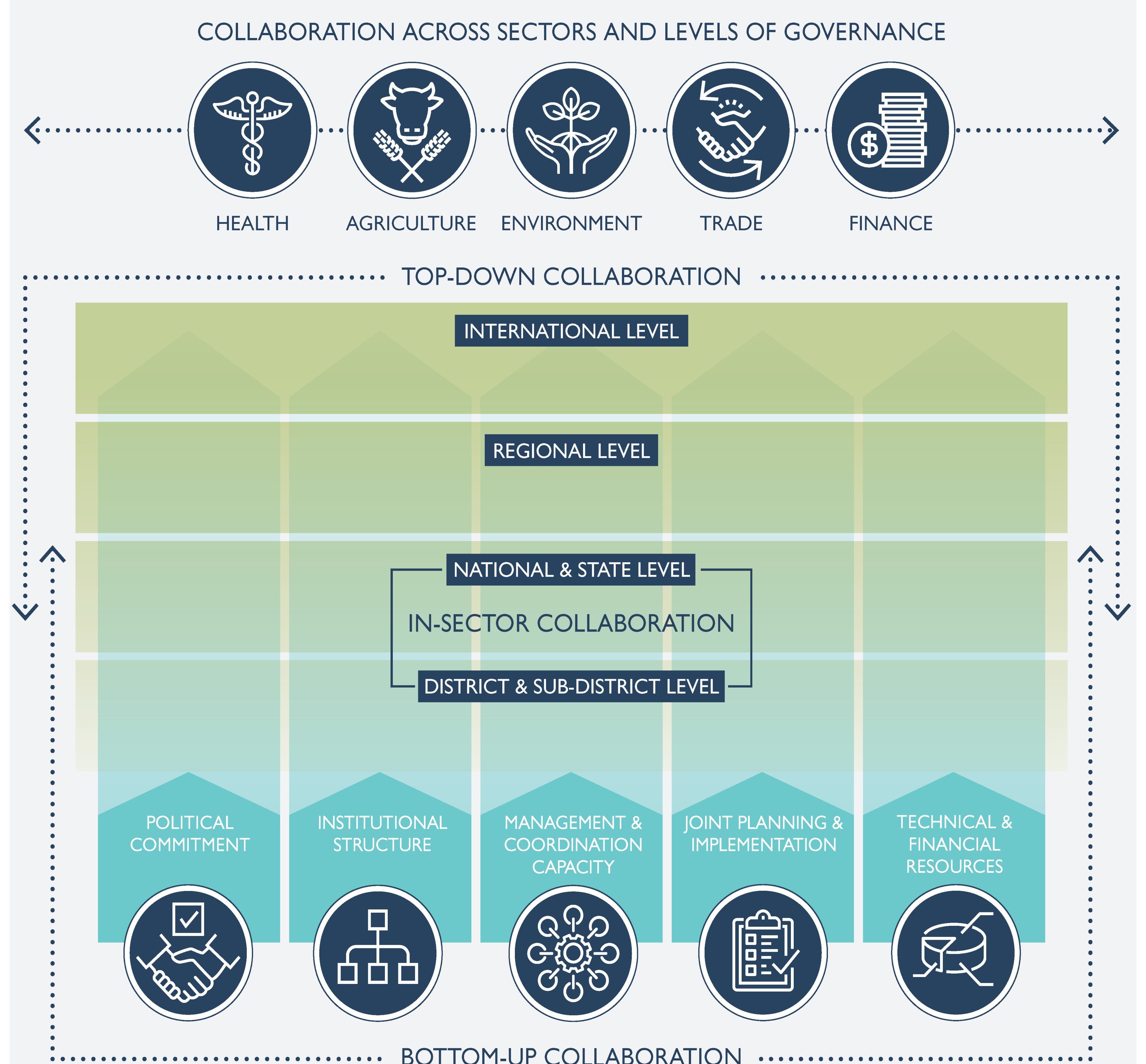


Figure: An integrated approach to public health threats: the vertical and horizontal coordination required for collective impact.

Graphic adapted from, and courtesy of:

WHO, 2018. Tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) together. Working paper 1.0: Multisectoral coordination. Geneva.

4 CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The five key areas the P&R research team identified as most critical to effective and sustainable One Health coordination:

- **Political commitment:** A legal mandate is essential to establish a formal multisectoral coordination mechanism and help it survive political instability or changes of leadership at the national level.
- **Institutional structures:** No matter the structure, clarity in organization and terms of reference help secure government ownership, build engagement, and develop capacity to respond to a disease event.
- **Management and coordination capacity:** Management and coordination capacity “soft skills” – annual work plans, guidelines for internal and external communication, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks – are critical to effective operational multisectoral coordination.
- **Joint planning and implementation:** Joint planning and collaborative implementation of technical activities build relationships and trust among partners.
- **Technical and financial resources:** One Health multisectoral coordination requires national government ownership, leadership, and commitment of resources to be sustained.

For comments or further discussion, please contact:

Contact Person: Susan Scribner, DAI Global Health

Email: susan_scribner@dai.com