

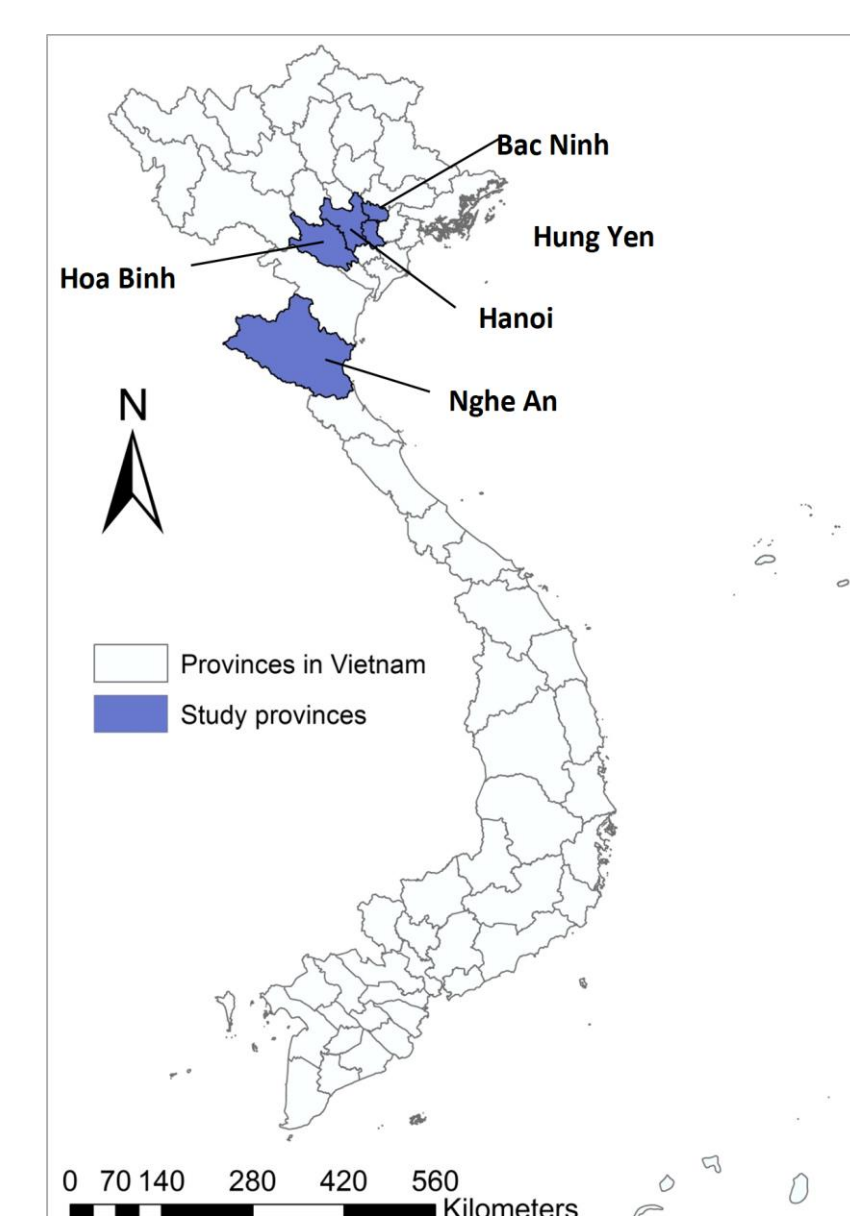
# Managing sustainable One Health teams: Lessons from case studies on pork safety in Laos and Vietnam

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## Background

Pork is a widely consumed animal-source food product in Vietnam and Laos, making up the most important meat diet. It is predominantly produced by smallholders thus contributing significant benefits to their livelihoods. Pork is commonly slaughtered in small-scale facilities and distributed through traditional retail markets. While these markets provide accessible pork, they often escape rigorous control measures. Food safety is a growing concern of consumers in both countries. Mitigation efforts focusing on infrastructure change failed to be effected. We describe the process of facilitation of One Health teams, including achievements, challenges and solutions, in two case studies from Vietnam and Laos aiming at sustainable food safety improvements in traditional pork value chains.



### Case studies in Vietnam

**Study area:** Five provinces of northern Vietnam  
**Research subject:** Risks of eating pork (e.g. *Salmonella/Trichinella*) and mitigation measures  
**Duration:** 2013 to date  
**Approach**

- Participatory risk assessment
- Low-cost interventions
- Policy and community engagement

### Laos case study on parasitic pork-borne diseases

**Study area:** Three provinces of southern Laos  
**Research question:** Can a One Health approach reduce pork-borne parasites in communities?  
**Duration:** 2015–18  
**Approach**

- Prevalence studies in pigs and people at risk
- Participatory rural appraisal
- Community campaigns and One Health platform



### One Health features (team and facilitation)

- Veterinary and public health: Assessment and interventions
- Economics: Cost–benefit studies, food auction and willingness to pay
- Social sciences: Behaviour change and gender
- Private sector: Advice on scaling options
- Communication: Risk communication materials and training
- Policy: Through food safety task force

### One Health features (team and facilitation)

- Veterinary and public health: Assessment and technical interventions
- Animal science: Participatory rural appraisal
- Social sciences: Behaviour change, gender and One Health operationalization of team
- Communication: Risk communication materials and training
- Multi-institutional One Health platform: Six ministries
- Policy: Through One Health platform

### One Health achievement

- Functioning and expanded One Health team
- Joint intervention and community campaigns
- High-level policy engagement (through aligned World Bank projects)
- Interdisciplinary food safety task force maintained

### One Health achievement

- Inter-ministerial platform established: health; agriculture and forestry; natural resources and environment; education and sports; information; culture and tourism; defence
- Joint community campaigns (defence forces supported outreach)

Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam (standing) speaks at the launch of a World Bank-commissioned food safety report in Hanoi, Vietnam on 27 March 2017



Meeting of the inter-ministerial platform, October 2017

### Observed challenges and solution

Joint technical analysis and preparation of peer-reviewed publications were a challenge in both country teams. For Laos, a research team only recently exposed to One Health, challenges were already prominent during the design phase e.g. in getting consensus on a common research topic. For Laos, those challenges were addressed by mentoring through One Health experts from the region and building trust within the team. Key for sustainability was the identification of a One Health champion. In all teams, strong incentives were joint lower-level research outputs such as reports, blog posts, conference visits, briefs and, in particular, recognition by donors through funded future research.

### Conclusion

Indicators of success and challenges in managing One Health teams varied by country and project and were addressed through One Health mentoring (Laos) and joint outputs. Policy engagement was unique in each country; in Laos, through an inter-ministerial cross-sectoral platform and in Vietnam, high-level policy engagement was aligned with involvement in wider food safety initiatives (World Bank funded the food safety report).

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