



Global Patterns in One Health Research Funding

Background

One Health has been increasingly recognised as a central framework for addressing interconnected risks across human, animal and ecosystem health. This evidence brief draws on a bibliometric analysis of over 6,000 One Health labelled publications (2010–2024) to examine who funds this research and how funding patterns shape the field. By identifying more than 600 funders and analysing their thematic and geographic distribution, the study provides new insights into the structure of global One Health research funding. The analysis highlights a funding landscape that, while active and diverse, remains structurally imbalanced, with acknowledged funding concentrated among a relatively small number of countries and institutions.

Key points

How One Health research is funded shapes both which areas receive sustained support and how investment is made visible across countries and sectors. Differences in who funds research, how contributions are acknowledged, and which [One Health Action Tracks](#) receive support reveal important patterns in the development of the field.

This brief forms part of the One Health research roadmap developed by the One Health Hub with support from UK International Development. It draws on a follow up analysis to the original bibliometric study of 6,168 One Health publications (2010–2024), which mapped research locations and collaboration patterns. Building on that dataset, this brief focuses specifically on the funders acknowledged in those publications and the thematic patterns of their support. Two additional briefs derived from the original analysis examine trends in One Health research topics and international research collaboration.

Who funds One Health research?

- Funder acknowledgement practices vary widely, with only a minority of publications (42%) including identifiable funders. As a result, the data reflect funding visibility rather than complete funding flows.
- Acknowledged funding is geographically concentrated, with 82% of the 642 identified funders headquartered in high income countries, largely led by the major research economies of the US, UK, EU, Brazil and China. The largest individual funder is the European Commission.
- Public-sector institutions dominate the visible funding landscape, with research councils (35%), government agencies (31%) and multilateral organisations (12%) accounting for nearly four-fifths of acknowledged publications.
- Different types of funders play distinct roles within the One Health ecosystem. Philanthropic organisations (15%), NGOs (2%) and private-sector actors (2%) contribute through thematic specialization, often with portfolios spanning zoonotic diseases (AT2 and AT3), food safety (AT4), antimicrobial resistance (AT5) and integrating the environment (AT6).
- Low- and lower middle-income countries are not represented or significantly underrepresented as acknowledged funders, reflecting both structural inequities and reporting gaps, rather than a complete absence of funding.

What One Health funders support

- Funding is concentrated in Action Tracks related to zoonotic diseases, food safety and antimicrobial resistance (AT2–AT5), aligning with core scientific and regulatory priorities.
- Capacity strengthening (AT1) and integrating the environment (AT6) receive less consistent support in research funding, although both are present across funders; some investment may sit outside research programmes and therefore be less visible.
- National funding profiles vary, according to scientific capacities, institutional arrangements and policy priorities (e.g., broad US coverage, diversified Brazil, strong AMR focus in China, and food systems/ecosystem emphasis in Portugal).

Recommendations

➤ **Increase coordinated investment in priority gaps**, particularly research-linked capacity strengthening and ecosystem health (AT1, AT6), alongside governance and policy-oriented research to strengthen systems, coordination and implementation.

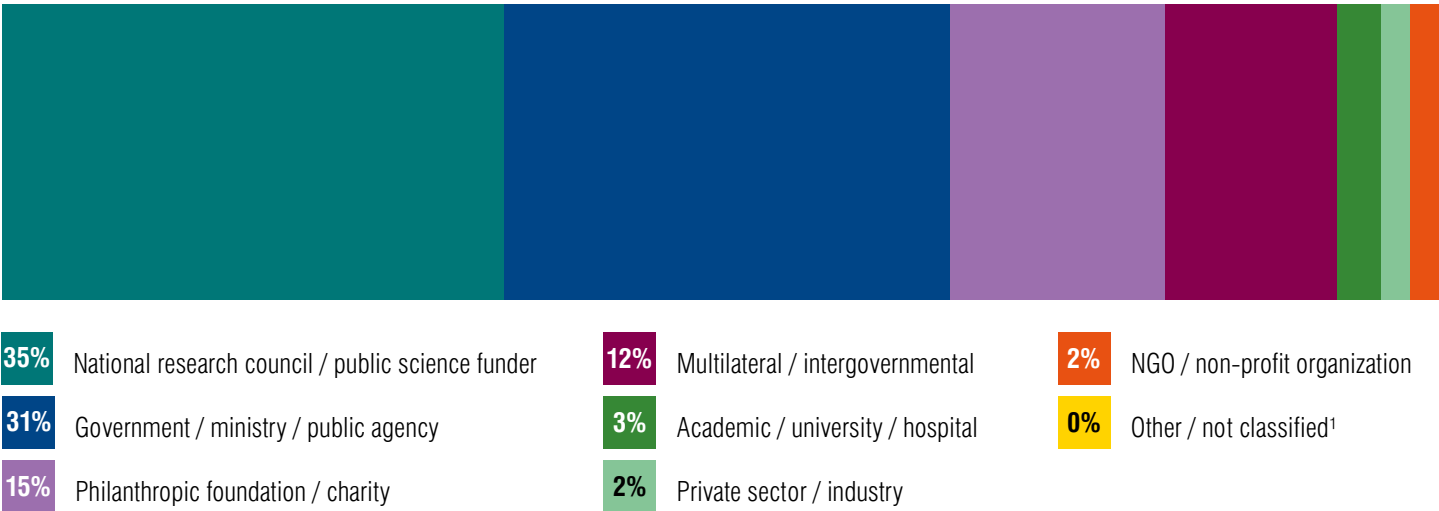
➤ **Strengthen and diversify the funding base**, by expanding domestic funding mechanisms, supporting leadership in LMICs, and broadening cross-regional and multi-funder collaboration to reduce reliance on a small number of dominant actors.

➤ **Improve the visibility and coordination of funding systems**, including better funder acknowledgement and transparency, and exploring more collaborative approaches (e.g., pooled or platform-based mechanisms) to address persistent thematic and geographic gaps.

Conclusion

The One Health funding landscape is active and diverse but remains structurally imbalanced, with high income countries and institutions shaping much of the field’s direction. Funding is concentrated in zoonotic disease, food system and AMR domains, with less consistent support for integrating the environment and system-level capacity. Addressing these gaps, and improving the visibility of funding flows, will be important for strengthening One Health research output.

Percentage of publications acknowledging funders, by funder type



¹The dataset includes only two funders that could not be confidently classified, indicating a high level of clarity in the institutional categorization.

Source: Authors’ compilation from Dimensions data of 5,488 publications (2014–2024)

Percentages in figure rounded off to nearest whole percent.

Acknowledgement

The One Health Hub acknowledges the use of Copilot (Microsoft, <https://m365.cloud.microsoft/chat>) in the creation of this evidence brief. Using the paper referenced above as the primary source, Copilot was asked to provide an initial summary which was subsequently revised and edited by the co-authors.

Reference: Valverde, A., Raj, E., Kadzamia, M.A.T.J., Ishii-Adajar, H., Szomszor, M. and Romney, D. (2026). Mapping the Funders of One Health Research: A Bibliometric Analysis 2010–24. *CABI Working Paper 39*.

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