Background
The Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations (EIO) program is a week-long professional development program in which multidisciplinary participants visit and learn from intergovernmental (IGOs) partners across Europe. In March 2019, a multidisciplinary team of participants came together to listen and learn from key messages shared across all four organizations (OIE, WHO, WTO & FAO). This group has come together to share what was heard, while pointing to areas that may benefit from targeted innovation. A $10,000 USD seed grant has been provided by the University of Minnesota and is intended to spur multidisciplinary and multilateral collaboration around priority topics identified in this communique, ultimately supporting IGOs in their mandate to build health and security in member countries.

What we heard:
- IGOs play a pivotal role in directing and encouraging global policies, frameworks and progress (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), International Health Regulation–Joint External Evaluation (IHR–JEE), Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS)Pathway, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement), while working collaboratively and independently to build member country capacity and promote access to global partners and resources.
- Linking global policies and frameworks to program implementation at the national and sub-national levels remains one of the largest global challenges for development.
- Global challenges such as emerging infectious diseases, food security, human migration, antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use, among other challenges have called attention to the necessity of collaborative One Health approaches. The IGOs have responded to this need through the formation of The Tripartite (OIE, WHO, FAO), fostering collaborative efforts and joint tools and resources to support member countries.
- WTO similarly supports member countries with a platform for engaging in international trade, ensuring fair access, and supporting science-informed decision-making. WTO plays an important role in supporting low and middle income countries to build capacity toward market access (e.g. Standards in Trade Development Facility (STDF)).
- Partnerships with academia and the private sector remain critical to support IGOs in the areas of research translation, evidence-based program and policy planning, partnerships to connect global goals with on the ground capacity building efforts, and coordinating efforts across disciplines and sectors.

Areas for EIO Seed grant innovation to support IGOs:
The IGOs support country capacity and self-reliance. All four IGOs reflected on the challenges of operationalizing global policies and frameworks (e.g. SDG, IHR-JEE, PVS, SPS Agreement) at a country level. Some of the areas that could benefit from collaboration with academic institutions and multiple disciplines include, but are not limited to:

Operationalizing the Tripartite Zoonotic Disease Guide at the country level: Collaborations with the Tripartite could mobilize resources for the development of operational tools and resources to support countries as they strive to implement the Tripartite Zoonotic Disease Guide.

Disease specific/issue specific research translation, data analysis or capacity building (e.g. Neglected Zoonotic Diseases, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Antimicrobial Resistance/ Antimicrobial Use, etc.): The IGOs have immense data repositories and often lack the time or resources to analyze data for evidence-based decision making. Universities have the capacity to integrate data from multiple sources, identify cross-cutting analysis, and generate knowledge for research and practice. Many ideas emerged around technical areas of work at the IGOs. This included the use of antimicrobials and studying the
trade-offs in use of antimicrobials, as well as inequities in access to antibiotics in farms (global North) and the burden of disease (global South). A few of the ideas that emerged included: supporting the Road Map Towards Ending TB, measuring the effectiveness of the Five Keys to Safer Food Manual or mobilizing education and training around wildlife markets and good food safety practices.

**Understanding the role of the private sector in capacity building:** Industry is instrumental in mobilizing change at a national and international level, yet its relationship to global policy change is not well understood. Exploratory research questions (e.g. how has industry engaged effectively with IGOs, how have industry partnerships changed program outcomes over time, how has their work influenced the economics of development) could offer important insight into their capacity to partner for global change, and also outline how best to access and attain their productive engagement.

**Exploring the role of gender for improved IGO & partner program implementation:** Gender has impacts on the effective implementation of IGO programs (e.g., the 5 food safety keys, antimicrobial use stewardship, One Health, neglected zoonotic diseases) at a community level. Collecting and providing data to IGOs about gender offers an opportunity to more deeply understand dynamics created by gender roles. University students (UMN, OHCEA, SEAOHUN) may be able to provide gender data back to the organizations as part of their field-based projects.

**Supporting economic analysis for decision making and systems modeling:** Economic studies remain a powerful tool for improved decision making. Some projects that could support IGO work include, but are not limited to, cost/benefit decision models that incorporate not only disease dynamics, but also social impacts such as gender dynamics, household safety, environmental impacts, social structure/stability impacts, and economic models/ analysis for antimicrobial resistance and use.

**Working with social scientists to improve models and approaches for monitoring & evaluating complex global health/ One Health systems:** Improved and practitioner-friendly models for identifying One Health outputs and outcomes can support the identification of short-term needs and inform long-term systems change. Countries need help measuring and tracking impacts of evaluation (e.g. IHR-JEE or PVS Pathway) on country strategic plans and implementation efforts.

**Working together to educate and train a globally-minded, locally-relevant and development-oriented researchers and practitioners:** The next generation of One Health/ Global Health workers will need to be globally-minded, locally-relevant and development-oriented. Through the education and training of future researchers and practitioners, academic institutions can support the development of a workforce that is prepared to meet highly complex, One Health needs. In particular, there is a need for applied policy and health programming that can support researchers and practitioners to situate their work within IGO policies and frameworks while fostering locally-driven change. In addition, there is a need for a frontline workforce that can care for both animals and humans in resource poor settings.

**Supporting countries to access international trade markets:** There is a need for local support, including trade-focused needs assessments and market analyses, that is informed by broader knowledge of international trade, sanitary, and health standards and guidelines. Local capacity building for accessing global markets can also be connected to local development priorities.

**Next Steps:**
Building on these priority areas for innovation, our EIO 2019 Team will be building out proposals to foster next steps and continued engagement. Members of the EIO Team will be reaching out to individual contacts at IGOs to suggest ways in which our collective work can be leveraged.

**Do you have an idea the EIO 2019 Team could help you with? Get in touch here:** https://forms.gle/IXT631j5tkscZAW6