

## **Regional Coordination meeting on HPAI situation in the Middle East and action plans guided by Global HPAI Strategy**

17 to 19, December 2024 in Amman, Jordan

### **“Recommendations and follow-up”**

The participants collectively agreed on the following results, which should be a prerequisite for a relevant regional action plan:

#### **1. Assessment of the Current Situation and Benchmarking**

- Strengthen surveillance and reporting programs to have up-to-date knowledge of the situation, covering not only poultry, but also wild birds and mammals, which is essential for an overall view of the spread and control of avian influenza.
- Conduct a detailed evaluation of the status of avian influenza across regional countries to identify challenges and strengths.
- Compare regional practices and outcomes with those of other regions, such as the EU and the Americas, to identify gaps and adopt best practices.

#### **2. Selection and Customization of Effective Models**

- Review and analyze various operational and organizational models for addressing avian influenza.
- Choose the model most suitable for regional needs, with the flexibility to adapt and upgrade it based on evolving requirements.

#### **3. Establishment of a Regional Network**

- Secure consensus among decision-makers to create a structured regional network.
- Design the network to address specific subject areas and define its governance under relevant bodies.

#### **4. Collaborative Problem-Solving and Recommendations**

- Allocate representatives from each member country to different sections of the network.
- Engage experts within these sections to identify challenges, propose solutions, and draft actionable recommendations.

## 5. Implementation, Capacity Building and Emergency Preparedness

- Develop and refine national emergency preparedness plans to address HPAI outbreaks, ensuring alignment with regional and global strategies.
- Conduct simulation exercises at both national and regional levels to test these plans, identify gaps, and refine response mechanisms.
- Secure government endorsement and funding to implement agreed-upon strategies.
- Provide training programs, technical support, and resources to enhance diagnostic, surveillance, and response capacities.
- Use the outcomes of simulation exercises and continuous improvement processes to strengthen preparedness and response efforts.

## 6. WOAHP HPAI Reference Laboratory

Serves as a regional center of excellence for avian influenza by:

- Providing advanced diagnostic services, technical expertise, and training to support national and regional laboratories.
- Harmonizing diagnostic standards and fostering collaboration to strengthen surveillance and control efforts across the region.

This framework integrates the **WOAH Reference Laboratory** as a key technical pillar, ensuring robust diagnostics, quality standards, and technical guidance in combating avian influenza.

The establishment of a **Standing Group of Experts** on HPAI as a governance and coordination body will ensure a unified approach to formalising the regional work plan and ensuring its follow-up.