

Regional One Health Workshop for the Middle East

“Strengthening One Health Implementation through the Joint Plan of Action” 14-16 Oct 2025

His Excellency Minister of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture

His Excellency Undersecretary of Agriculture & Animal Wealth

Representative of WOAHO Regional Office for the Middle East,

Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East,

Delegates of Member Countries of the Middle East region, and

WOAH FAO & AOAD colleagues,

Dear Colleagues and friends,

Good morning. It is a privilege to welcome you to Manama for this Regional One Health Workshop for the Middle East. Allow me first to thank our hosts—I would like to express my deepest gratitude to His Excellency, Eng. Wael bin Nassar Al Mubarak, for his support to WOAHO activities and for facilitating the organisation of this workshop in Kingdom of Bahrain. —for their generous support and leadership. I also wish to acknowledge our Quadripartite partners: FAO, WHO, and UNEP, whose collaboration with WOAHO anchors the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA).

I speak to you today in my dual capacity—as WOAHO Vice-President and as the WOAHO Delegate of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Wearing these two hats is a reminder that our regional responsibilities and our national commitments must reinforce each other: what we decide together must be implementable at home, and what we achieve at home should strengthen our neighbors.

We gather at a time when health threats are interdependent and fast-moving. Zoonotic spillovers, the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety incidents, and environmental degradation rarely respect sectors or borders. A shock in one domain can cascade across human health, animal health, plant health, ecosystems, food systems, trade, and livelihoods. The COVID-19 pandemic made this painfully clear. So too do climate-related shifts in vectors, wildlife—livestock interfaces, and unsafe production practices.

Colleagues, the Middle East has unique strengths: historic trading ties, shared ecosystems, and deep scientific expertise. It also faces shared risks that travel along flyways and supply chains. That is why a regional platform like these matters. Here, we can align standards, compare approaches, and design complementary investments—so that what one country builds strengthens its neighbors.

By the end of this workshop, I invite each delegation to reflect on and put forward **a concise set of recommendations:**

1. **National recommendations** — clear, practical next steps to enhance multisectoral coordination and strengthen One Health implementation (for example, developing a joint risk-assessment SOP, planning a cross-sector simulation, or harmonizing surveillance data).
2. **Recommendations linked to the six action tracks** — identifying areas where countries seek alignment, collaboration, or technical support.
3. **Recommendations for regional collaboration** — to guide future joint projects, capacity-building efforts, and resource mobilization across the Middle East.

Let me close with a simple thought: **One Health is not an abstract idea** — it is a faster alert, a trusted message, a safe sample, a protected worker, and a risk that never becomes a crisis. If we

use this week to turn a shared plan into shared practice, the benefits will be measured in lives and livelihoods protected across our region.

On behalf of **WOAH**, and in my national capacity as **Bahrain's Delegate**, I thank you for your commitment and partnership.

I wish you productive discussions and a successful workshop.

Thank you.