# World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) Middle East Regional Training Workshop for National Focal Points of Animal Disease Notification Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), 11-13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Organisation Organización World Organisation mondiale Mundial for Animal de Sanidad de la santé Health animale Animal

**Dr Tariq Tahar** 

**Dr Mohamed Alhosani** 

Dr. Fayçal Meziani - World Organisation of Animal Health

**Dr Peter Melens - World Organisation of Animal Health** 





# Group Photo





World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

# **WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System**

# Housekeeping & Icebreaker

# WAHIAD activities and WAHIS

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), 11-13<sup>th</sup> November 2025



World Organisation for Animal Health

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal WIFI Bab Al Qasr



فندق باب القصر

Hayyakum

Prayer Rooms 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor







Das



Assembly point



# Data protection

Please note that during the workshop, the organisers will be taking photos which will be published on their website(s).

By appearing in the (group) photos, you give WOAH permission to capture, reproduce and communicate your image worldwide via its websites.

If you do not agree to the terms of this photo rights release, you may refrain from appearing in the group photo.

# **Ground Rules**

Phones on silent



Be on time

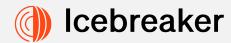


Engage actively



Keep it short & sharp





### Over the next 20 minutes:

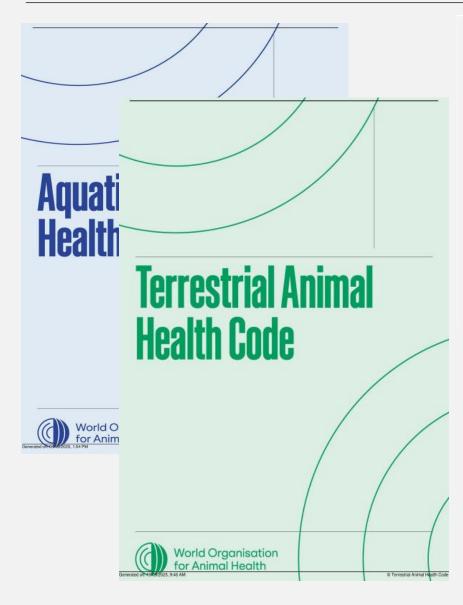
- Write up to three expectations you have for this training course on separate sticky notes.
- Stick your notes on the wall or flipchart (Capital letters / Country Name)
- Take a few minutes to read others' notes, then place your sticky notes on the board and briefly introduce yourself and discuss with your group to connect with people who share similar goals.
- The wall will remain available throughout the course, so feel free to add more sticky
  notes at any time. We will review them and discuss them all together at the end of the
  training.

- 1. Train the national WOAH focal points for animal disease notification and other selected staff from non-Members to be important stewards in their respective countries / territories with respect to animal disease reporting.
- 2. Inform participants about reporting requirements and the nature of information using the WAHIS application as well as to appropriately consult the system.
- 3. Provide a forum for participants to interact with each other and WOAH staff, towards improving disease notifications across the region.
- 4. Support participants in building and participating in networks at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global scales.
- 5. Train participants on the latest methods for reporting information using the WAHIS platform.
- 6. Collect user feedback to feed into future system and reporting requirements.



# Obligations for reporting to WOAH

# WOAH obligations for animal disease notification



#### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Organic Statutes of the Office International des Epizooties, Member Countries shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Authority* of its territory or territories.

All notifications and all information sent by WOAH to the Veterinary Authority shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all notifications and all information sent to WOAH by the Veterinary Authority shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

#### Article 1.1.2.

- Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through WOAH, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases, and their pathogenic agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases.
- 2. To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3, and 1.1.4.
- 3. For the purposes of this chapter, an "event" means a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given listed disease or emerging disease that is the subject of a notification. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the initial notification through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and epidemiological units.

#### Article 11.3.

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the Headquarters.

- in accordance with relevant provisions in the disease-specific chapters, notification, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or email within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
  - a. first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - b. recurrence of an eradicated *listed disease* in a country, a zone or a compartment following the final report that declared the event ended;
  - c. first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogenic agent of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment;
  - d. recurrence of an eradicated strain of a pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* in a country, a zone or a compartment following the final report that declared the event ended;
  - e. a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by, the pathogenic agent of a *listed* disease present within a country, a zone or a compartment;
  - f. occurrence of a *listed disease* in an unusual host species;
- 2. weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event notified, a final report should be submitted;
- 3. six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of listed diseases and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4. annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.



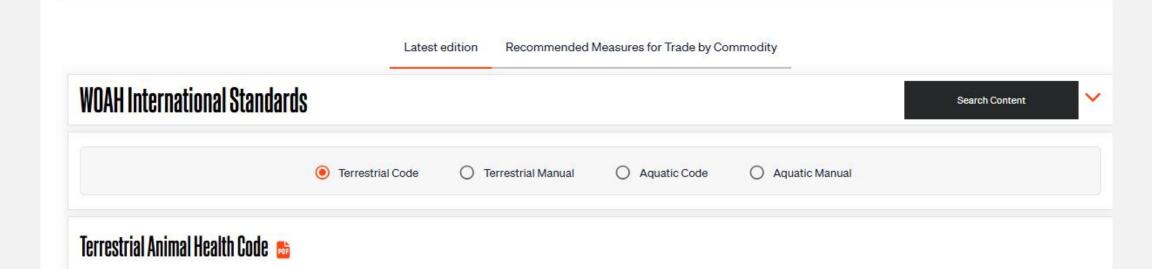


# **Codes and Manuals**

Our Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes provide standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including through standards for safe international trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products. The Manuals provide a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in each Code.

To consult previous versions, visit the following links:

Previous editions Terrestrial Code / Previous editions Aquatic Code



# Diseases & case definitions based on WOAH Standards

Criteria based on WOAH Animal Health Codes:

3 International spread Reliable means of Transmission to humans of the pathogenic detection, diagnosis with severe consequences AND **AND** agent and at least and precise case OR one country has definition demonstrated Significant impact on the freedom health of domestic or wild animals

Listed diseases (122) + Emerging diseases (3)

- ✓ Immediate notifications & weekly follow-up reports: exceptional events (mostly presence) information submitted and validated within 24 hours of confirmation for listed diseases
- ✓ Six-monthly reports: diseases with stable situation (presence, infection, suspicion) information submitted and validated several months after the end of a semester

in the country or a zone or a compartment

### Articles 1.1.3. of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes

Within 24 hours!

Immediate notifications and weekly follow-up reports on exceptional events:

- first occurrence or recurrence of a listed disease in a country or zone
- first occurrence or recurrence of a strain of a pathogenic agent of a listed disease in a country or zone
- sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence of a listed disease in a country or zone
- occurrence of a listed disease in an unusual/new host species

Weekly updates – until closed as stable or resolved

Why it is important to keep your ongoing events updated?

- Transparency WOAH's mandate
- Opening trade after a disease event
- (Re)gaining official disease status of freedom (only WOAH Members)
- Making a self-declaration of freedom (only WOAH Members)
- Data consistency with six-monthly reports

### Article 1.1.3 of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes

2 semestrial reports (terrestrial and aquatic animals) providing for each of the WOAH-listed diseases:

- Occurrence code (present, absent, no information...)
- Control measures
- Quantitative data

Annual report: significant contextual information



# Reporting requirements: emerging diseases

### Article 1.1.4 of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes

- 1. a notification through WAHIS or by fax or email, when an emerging disease has been detected in a country, a zone or a compartment;
- 2. periodic reports subsequent to a notification of an emerging disease:
  - a) for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty that:
    - i. the infection or infestation has been eradicated; or
    - ii. the situation has become stable;

OR

- b) until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAH list as described in Chapter 1.2.;
- 3. a final report once point 2 a) or 2 b) above has been complied with.

NOTE: no transfer to six-monthly report



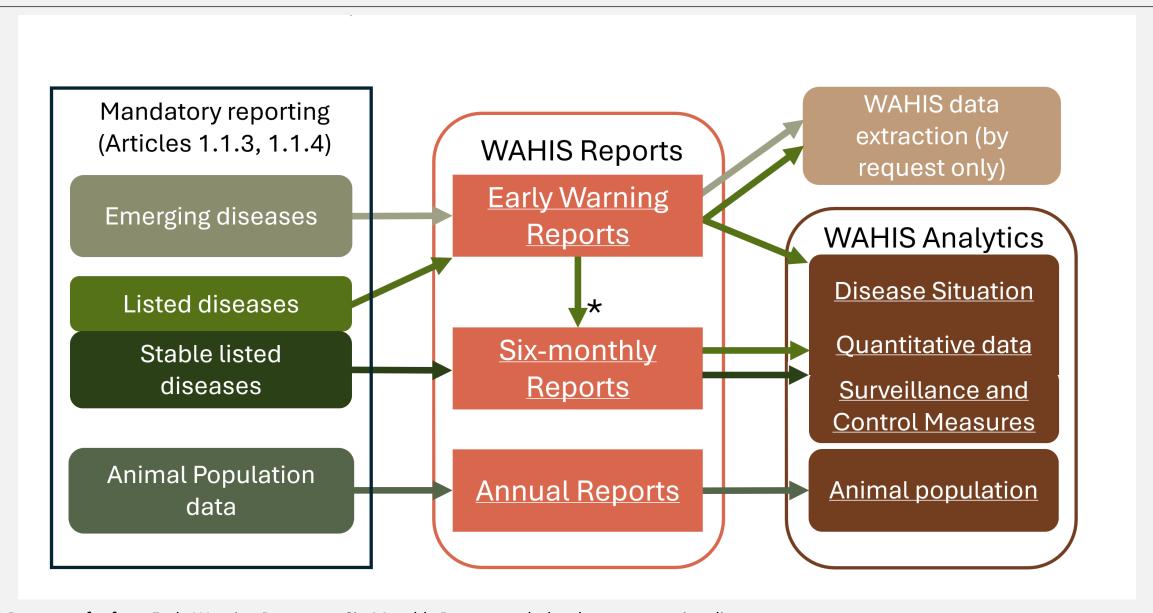
### Other important animal health information

### Article 1.1.5 of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes

- 1. Although Members are only required to notify <u>listed</u> <u>diseases</u> and <u>emerging diseases</u>, they are encouraged to provide WOAH with other important animal health information (via <u>WAHIS support</u> following the dedicated guidelines <u>Article 1.1.5 Notifications : WAHIS Support</u>).
- 2. The <u>Headquarters</u> shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to <u>Veterinary Authorities</u> all <u>notifications</u> received as provided in Articles <u>1.1.2.</u> to <u>1.1.4.</u> and other relevant information.

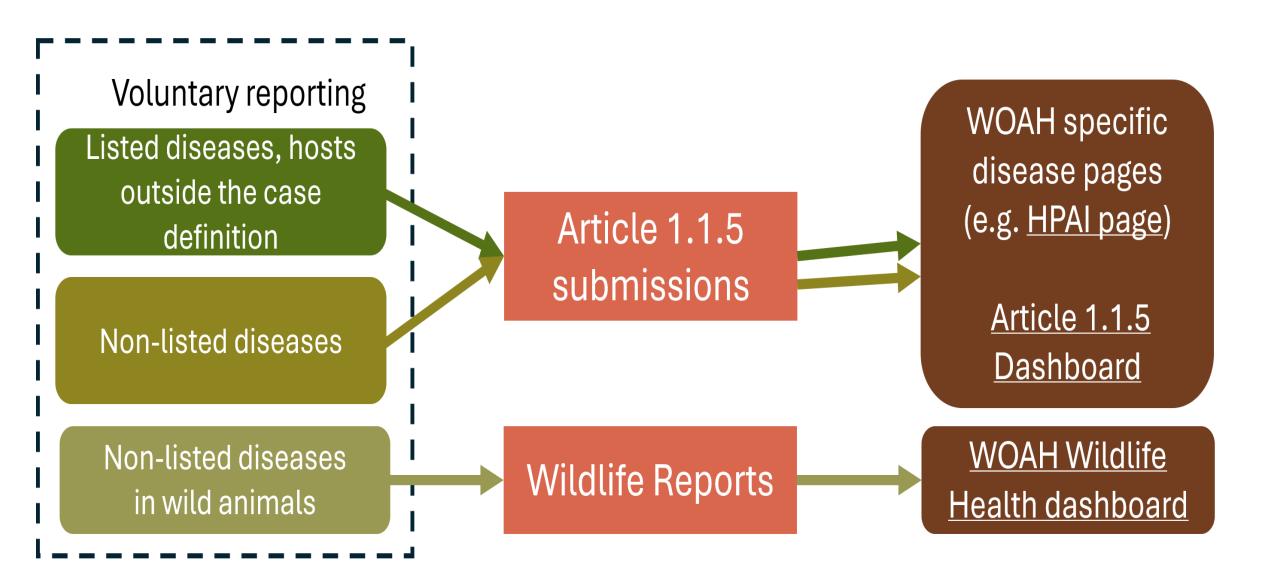


# WOAH reporting schema – Mandatory reporting



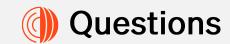
<sup>\*</sup> Data transfer from Early Warning Reports to Six-Monthly Reports excludes data on emerging diseases.







We hold the central repository of key official information that enables and empowers WOAH and stakeholders to make responsible decisions related to important animal diseases.







# WAHIS Annual Report Module

**Dr Rosa Loedel** 

Animal Health Information Officer
World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department
World Organisation for Animal Health

WAHIS training

11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)



World Organisation for Animal Health Organisation mondiale de la santé

animale

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

### **Contents**

Brief introduction of the Annual Report (AR) module

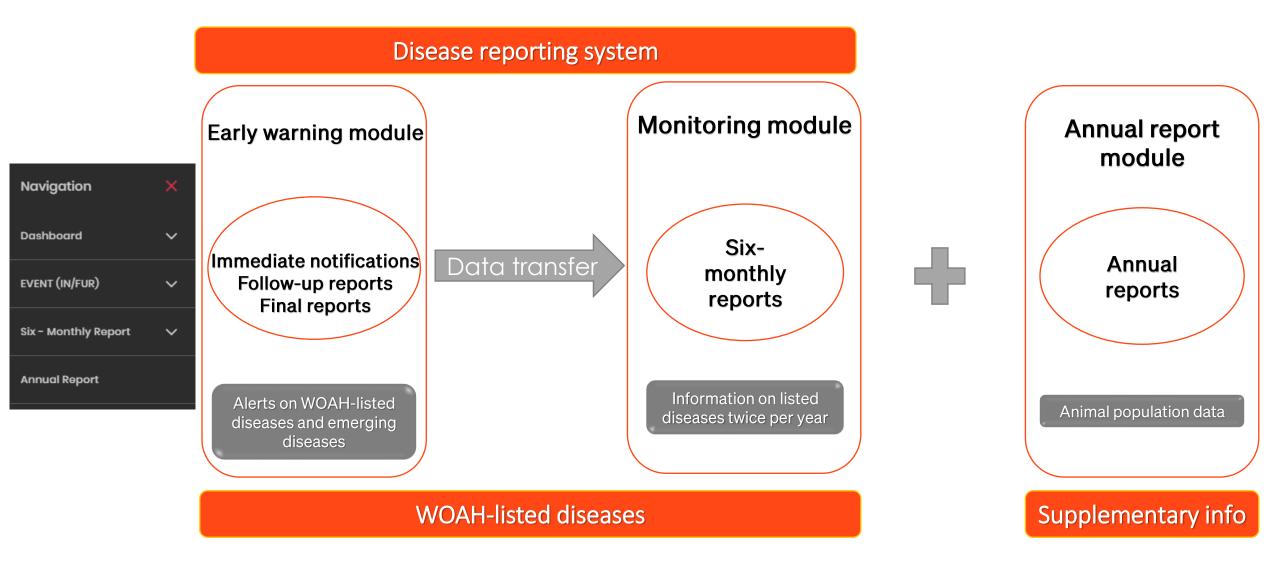
 Notes on how to conduct the exercises to submit an annual report

Practical exercises

Public Interface video



# Key concept: link between WAHIS modules



https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/disease-data-collection/world-animal-health-information-system/

# Key concept: link between WAHIS modules

**Annual report** module Annual reports Animal population data

Supplementary info

Article 1.1.3.

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the Headquarters:

- 1. in accordance with relevant provisions in the disease-specific chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or email within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
  - . first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- b. recurrence of an eradicated listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment of iollowing the final report that declared the event ended;
- c. first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* in **security**, a **zone** or a **compartment**;
- d. recurrence of an eradicated strain of a pathogenic agent of a listed disease of a country, a zone or a compartment following the final report that declared the event ended:
- e. a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in infection or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by, the pathogenic agent of a *listed* disease present within a country, a zone or a compartment;
- f. occurrence of a *listed disease* in an unusual host species;
- 2. weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the *notification* and the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the *notification* and the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the *notification* and the submitted is the country of the member Country. For each event which justified the notification is the country of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *listed disease* has been satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event which justified the notification is the country of the member Coun
- 3. six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of listed diseases and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4. annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

**Mandatory** - Article 1.1.3 part 4 <u>Veterinary Authorities</u> shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the <u>Headquarters</u>: **annual reports** concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

This had been suspended since 2019 but went live again in June 2024.



### 1. Brief introduction of the WAHIS annual report module

### WHAT is the annual report?

A component of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) that allows countries and territories of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to report data annually to WOAH. Currently, we only collect data on **animal population** for both terrestrial and aquatic animals.

### • HOW to create an annual report?

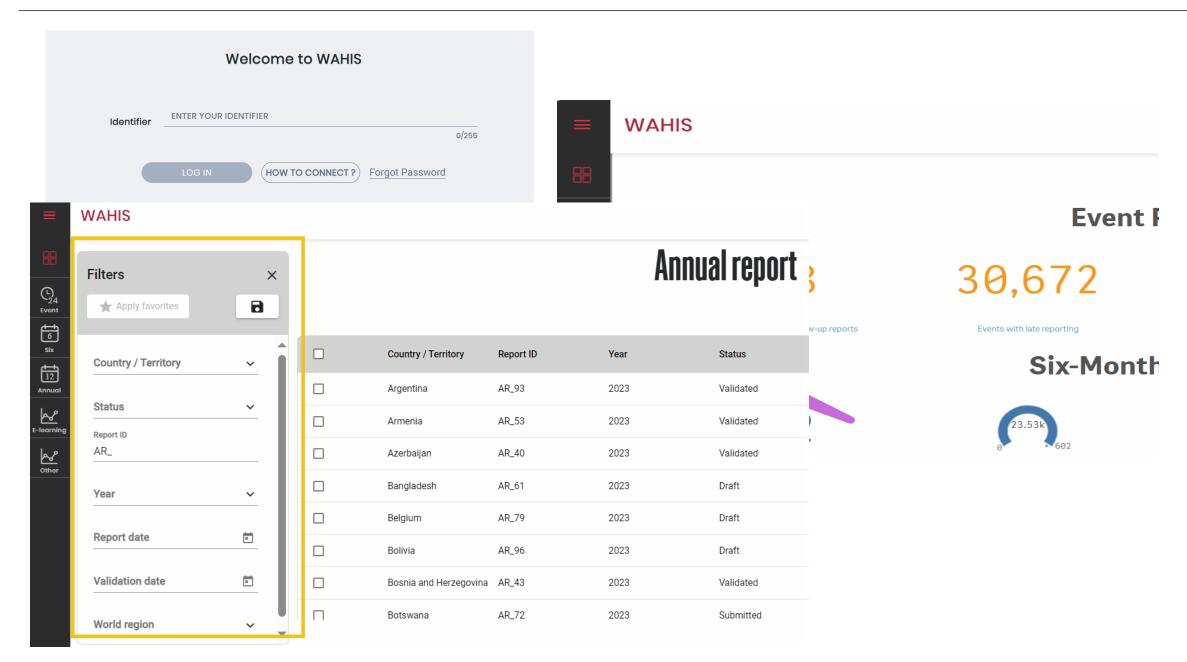
A new annual report can be created by logging into WAHIS through <a href="https://wahis.woah.org/#/login">https://wahis.woah.org/#/login</a> using the authorised user credentials (email identifier and password) and selecting "Annual report".

### • WHEN to submit the annual report?

The annual report can be created as of **January 1**<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year. We encourage you to submit the report as soon as the relevant data is available. Preferably, it is encouraged to submit before the General Session (May).

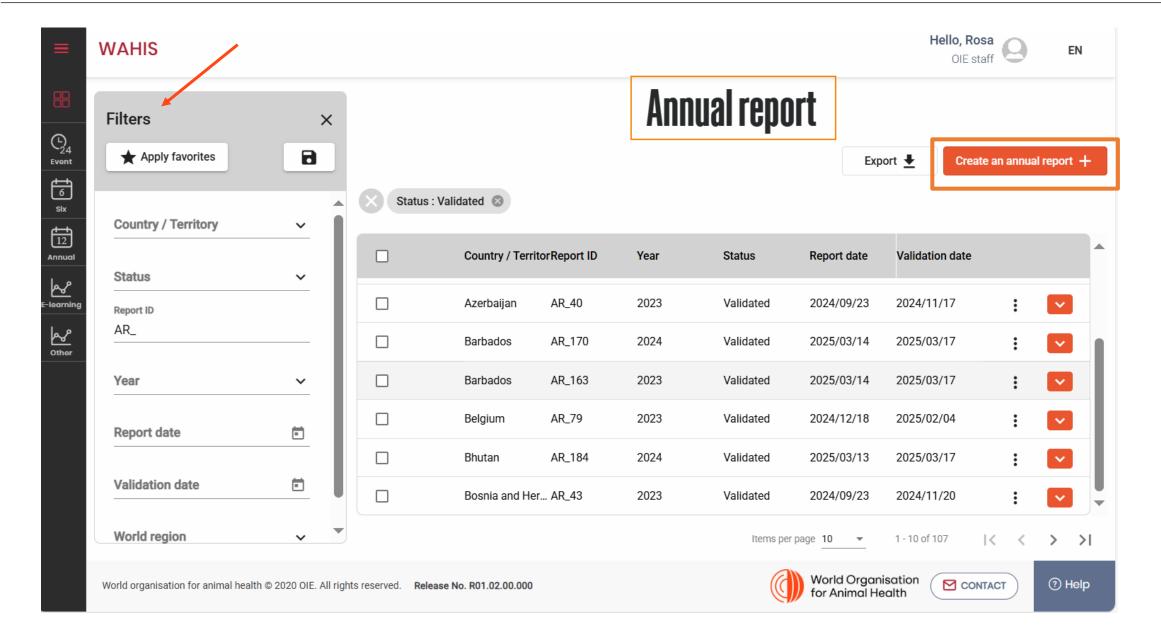


# 1. Brief introduction of the WAHIS annual report module





# 1. Brief introduction of the annual report module





### **Terrestrial**

- No. of live animals
- No. of slaughtered animals
- Total meat weight of slaughtered animals (tonnes)
- Mean live weight (kg)
- No. of animal premises (farms)

### **Aquatic**

- Total meat weight of slaughtered animals
- No. of animal premises (farms)

X



### **Animal population**

Cattle

Animal category	Live animals	0	Mean live weight (kg)	0	Slaughtered animals	0	Total meat weight of slaughtered animals (tonnes)	7	Animal premises	0
Cattle * Terrestrial / Measuring unit : Animals	☐ No inform	nation	☐ No inform	nation	☐ No inform	ation	☐ No inform	ation	☐ No inform	mation
Animal subcategory										
Adult dairy cattle										
Adult beef cattle										
Males and females, 1-2 years, dairy cattle										
Males and females, 1-2 years, beef cattle										

Cancel

Save



### **Animal population**

**Farmed Fish** 

Animal category	Total meat weight of slaughtered ⑦ animals (tonnes)	Animal premises ⑦
Farmed Fish *  Aquatic	☐ No information	☐ No information
Animal subcategory		
Fish - Cyprinidae		
Fish - Salmonidae		
Fish - Cichlidae		
Fish - Siluriformes		
Fish - Marine		
Figh - Others		

Cancel

Save

 $\times$ 

https://wahis.woah.org/#/home

### Animal population

 $\bigotimes$ 

Visualize data

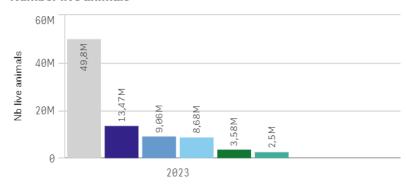
Export data

https://wahis.woah.org/#/public/dashboard/animal-population

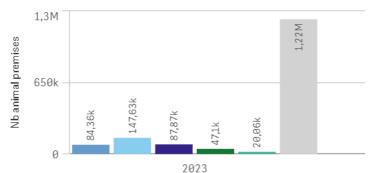
The content of this dashboard is based on the data contained in the annual reports submitted by the relevant Veterinary Services through WAHIS. For visualization purposes, provided data has been aggregated in a comprehensive way. Please note that this dashboard is refreshed every 24 hours.

# World Region Country / Territory Animal type Animal category Please select only one animal category to view the data Category Number live animals

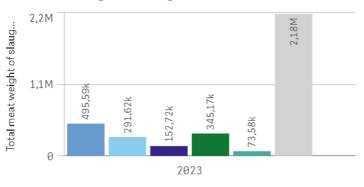
#### Number live animals



### Number animal premises



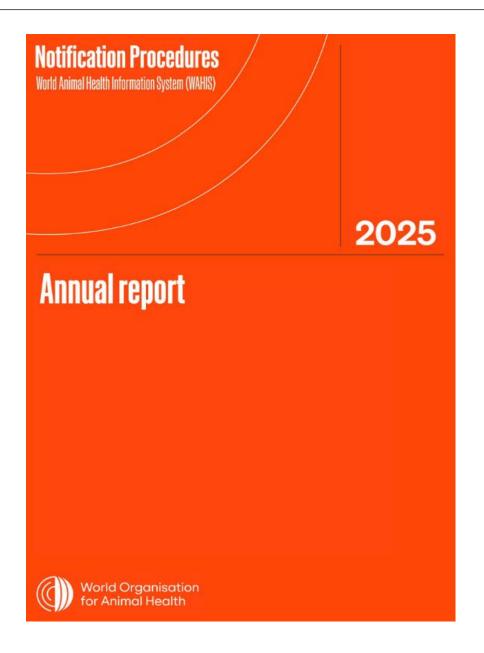
#### Total meat weight of slaughtered animals (tonnes)



#### Resources for annual report

Notification procedures
 Appual report / Procédure - Par

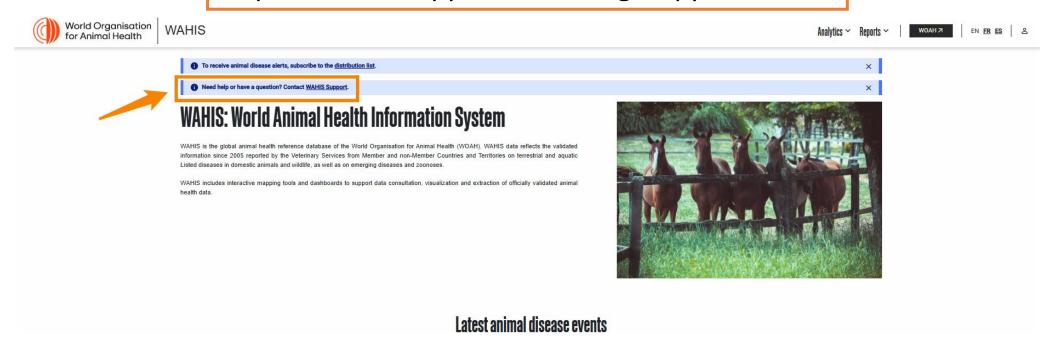
<u>Procedure — Annual report / Procédure — Rapport annuel / Procedimiento — Informe anual : WAHIS Support</u>

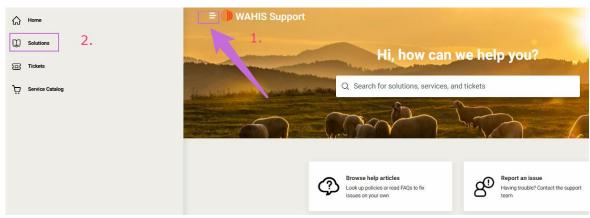




#### Resources for annual report

https://wahis-support.woah.org/support/home







#### **Annual Report**

Identifier

**ENTER YOUR IDENTIFIER** 

#### Please, do the following:

1. Log-in into WAHIS Training environment at <a href="https://wahis-training.woah.org/#/login">https://wahis-training.woah.org/#/login</a>

Put provisional credentials in the black box that appears first:

Username: wahistraining

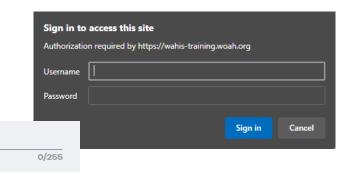
Password: thisisatraining

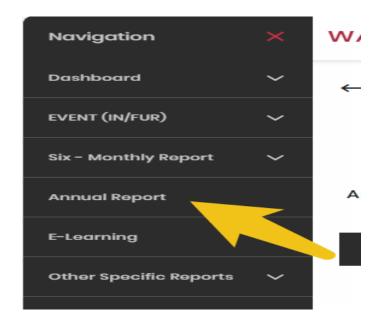
Then by using your own WAHIS credentials.

On the left-hand side, find "Annual report":

4. Go to folder "Day 1" → "Exercises" → "1. "Annual report\_Exercise 1"
 (Advanced users can help colleagues with the task)

- 5. Follow the exercises to create a 2023 or 2024 Annual Report for your country.
- 6. Practice the tasks hands-on as demonstrated.
- 7. Let the facilitator know if you're falling behind.
- 8. Self-verification will be conducted after the exercise.
- 9. The report can be left in draft or submitted.







#### **Exercise 1: Practical exercise on the annual report**

#### **Instructions**

Now please read carefully the following scenario, discuss and then answer the questions.

You have 30-45 minutes for this

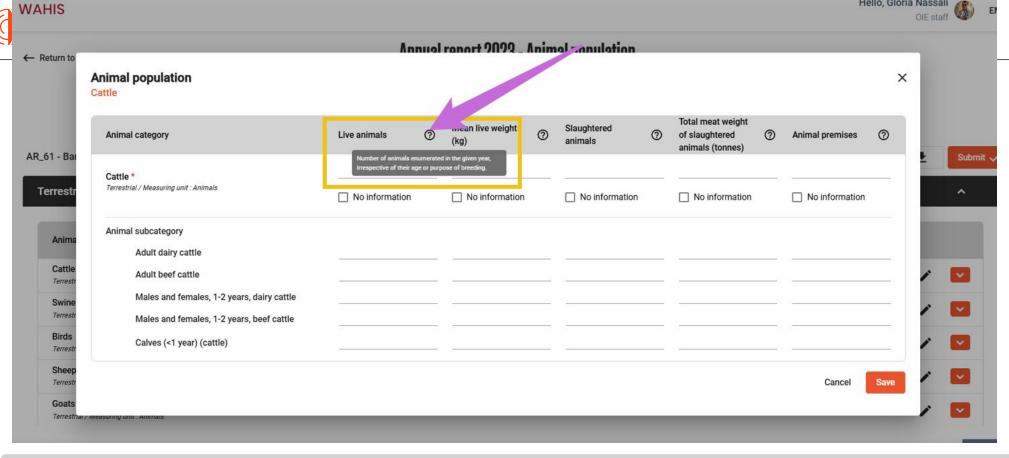
#### **Scenario**

You are a focal point and would like to enter data on animal population for **Country A**. And below is the data received by the **Ministry of Animal industry of Country A** from the **Country A Bureau of statistics** after the census, Please use it to fill in the data for the WOAH annual report.

Please note that this scenario is hypothetical and does not correspond to reality. This scenario has only been developed for training purpose.

#### **Key points to consider:**

- Definition in the tooltips.
- •A dash (-) Means no information
- 0 means no animals



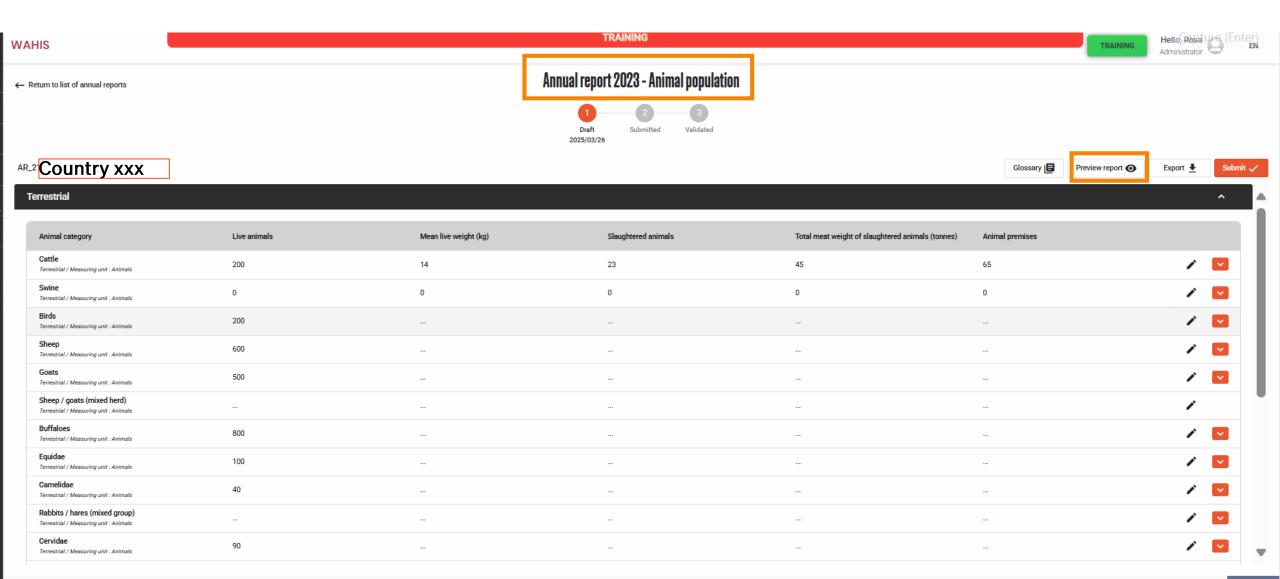
Animal category	Live animals	Mean live weight (k	g) Slaughtered animals	Total meat weight of slaughtered animals (tonnes)	Animal premises
Cattle Terrestrial / Measuring unit : Animals	54677		0		
Swine					

- •Definition in the tooltips.
- •A dash (-) Means no information
- 0 means no animals

Taganasial / Adamantian trains Animala

		Table 1: Total showing the number of live animals in 2023					
		Animal category	Live	Mean live	Slaughtered	Total meat	Animal
			animals	weight (kg)	animals	weight of	premises
_						slaughtered	
						animals	
						(tonnes)	
	1.	Cattle	200	14	23	45	65
		Adult dairy cattle	10	-	-	-	-
		Adult beef cattle	10	-	-	-	-
		Males and females, 1-2 years, dairy cattle	10		-	-	-
		Males and females, 1-2 years, beef cattle	10	-	-	-	-
		Calves (<1 year) (cattle)	10	-	-	-	-
	2.	Swine	0	0	0	0	0





? Help

- Either click submit or leave the report in draft. Only draft reports can be deleted.
- To delete click on the 3 dots on the extreme right of the specific report row and select "Delete the report"





#### Practical exercise 2 (Case Study)

#### **Group Exercise 2: Practical exercise on the annual report**

#### **Instructions**

Go to folder "Day 1"  $\rightarrow$  "Exercises"  $\rightarrow$  "1. "Annual report\_Exercise 2"

Now please read carefully the following scenario, discuss and then answer the questions.

You have around 30 minutes for this exercise.

Please note that this scenario is hypothetical and does not correspond to reality. This scenario has only been developed for training purpose.

#### **Key points to consider:**

•The wording of the data as collected by the country vs the data required for the WOAH annual report.

#### <u>Scenario</u>

You are the WOAH focal point in charge of animal diseases for **Country D**, while entering data for the WOAH annual report for 2023, you notice 3 scenarios

- A census happens in this country every 10 years, the only data available was obtained in the 2020 national animal census.
- The total number of slaughtered cattle is 20,000,837 this includes 837 animals that were imported for slaughter
- The number of cattle premises is 25647. These premises are used for keeping adult dairy cows, calves, goats and sheep.



1. What data would you use to fill in the 2023 annual report?

I would use the available 2020 data or an estimate

2. What data would you use in case you need to submit your report of the following year (remember this will be before the next national animal census)?

I would use the available 2020 data or an estimate

3. From scenario 2, what is the total number of slaughtered cattle in country D?

20,000,837 minus 837

(NOTE: We do not include imported animals in our data)

*Answer = 20,000,000* 

4. What is the total number of premises for the following animal categories?

a.	Adult dairy catt	le	_25647
	<b>0</b> 1	~ - ~	

c. Goats\_\_\_\_\_25647\_\_\_\_\_

b. Claves\_\_\_\_\_25647\_\_\_\_

d. Sheep\_\_\_\_25647\_\_\_\_

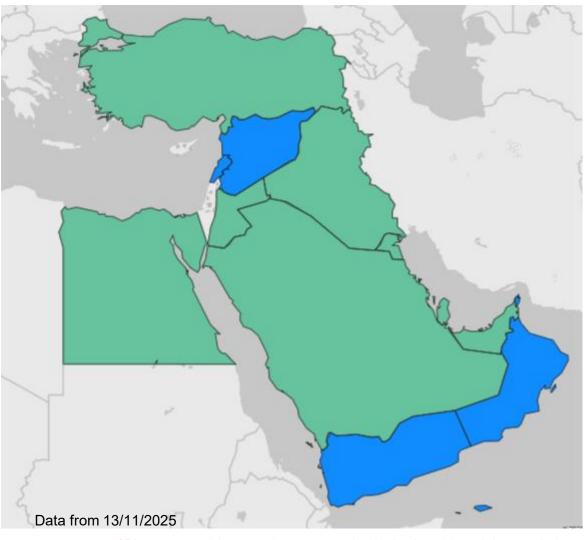


2023 and 2024 Annual Report situation – Middle East Region\*

Blue

No Annual reports submitted yet

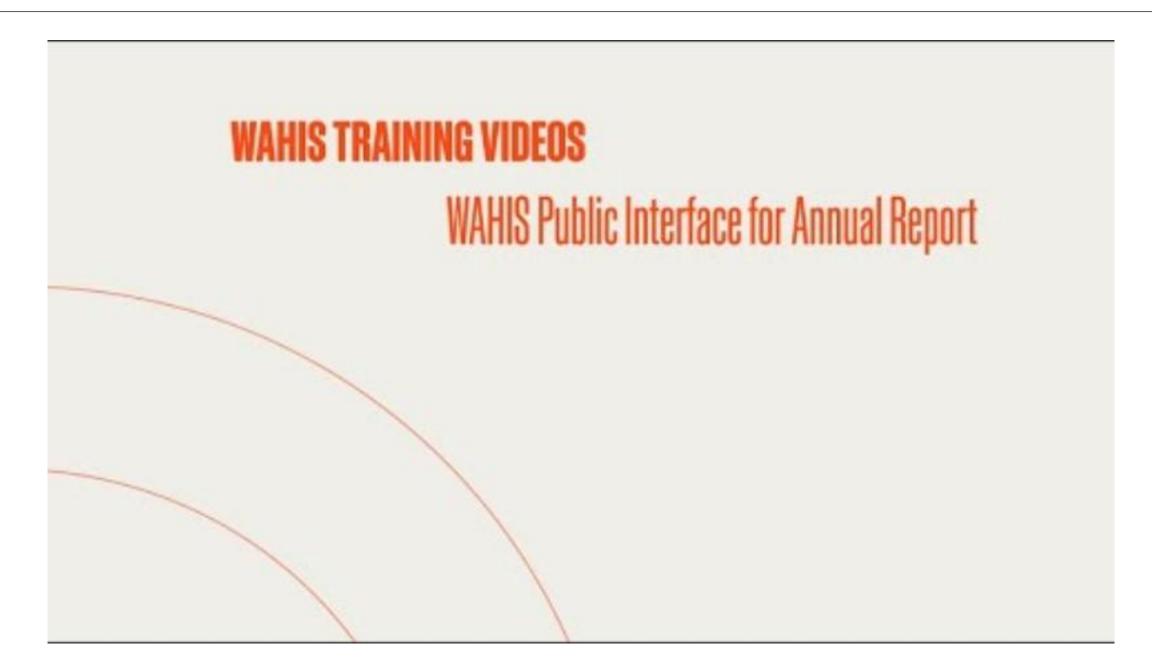
**Green** Both Annual reports submitted



\*Please note this map shows countries invited to this training workshop.













# 2. Rumor Tracking and Epidemic Intelligence

Active Search Team / GLEWS+ (Global Early Warning System)

Dr Tahreem Khalid

WAHIS training

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), 11-13<sup>th</sup> November 2025



World Organisation for Animal Health Organisation mondiale de la santé animale

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal



WOAH Transparency Mandate

Epidemic Intelligence activities in WOAH

- WOAH collaboration with partner organisations
- Role of Members

Practical Activities

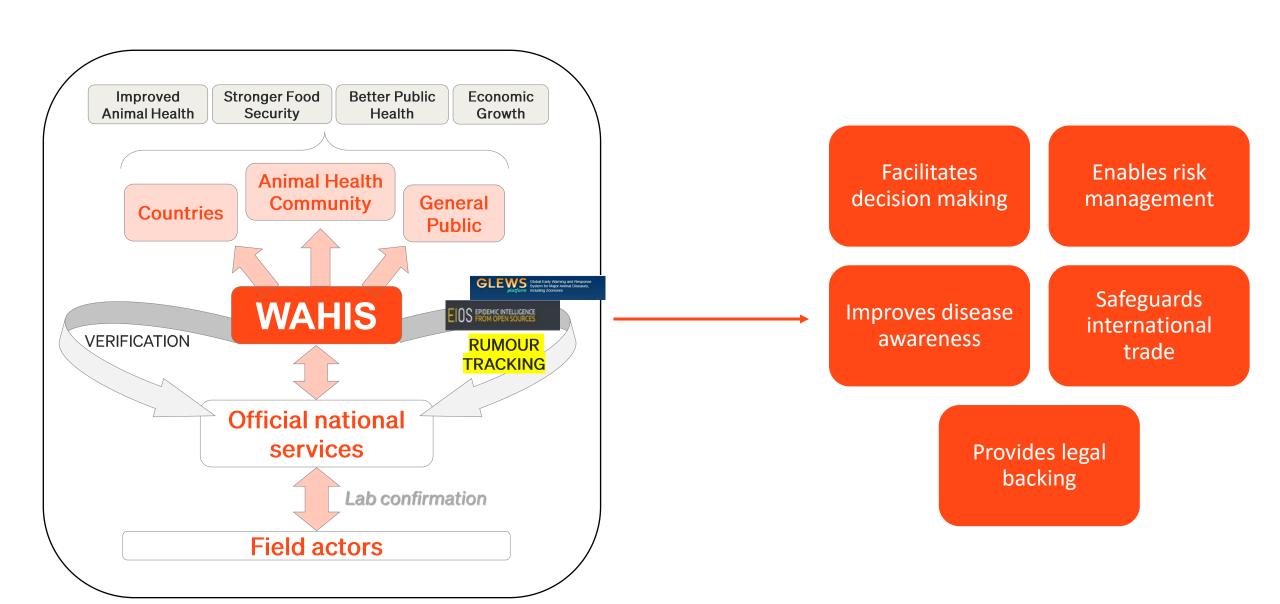
 One of the main mandates of WOAH is to ensure the transparency of the world animal health situation.

 To meet this objective, WOAH collects official notifications of animal diseases from its Members, including notifications involving zoonoses (animal diseases transmissible to humans) and disseminates this information to the international community.

 Active Search Team is responsible for searching for non-official animal health information and rumours.



#### World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)



### EIOS EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCES



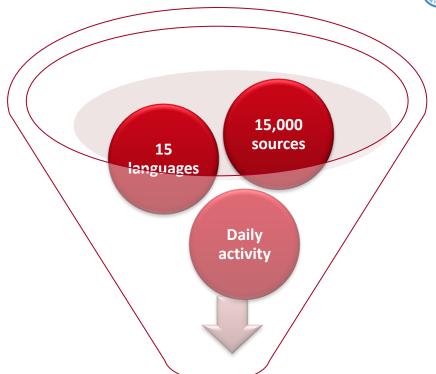




World Organisatio
Organisation mondiale
for Animal de la santé

Organizad Mundial de Sanida

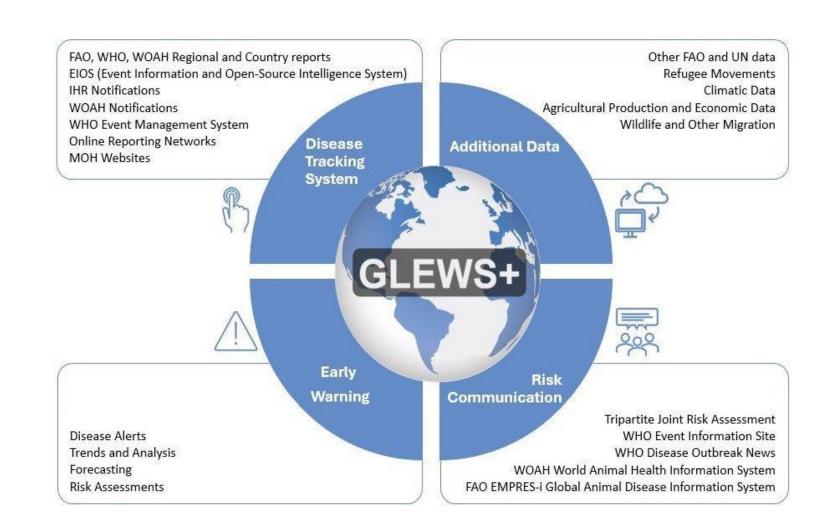




Reference laboratories (WOAH network)

#### Joint FAO/WHO/WOAH Tripartite GLEWS + Global One Health Intelligence + Early Warning System

- One Health Intelligence collaboration of WHO, FAO, and WOAH.
- Established in 2006. Operating at global level.
- Focus on priority diseases (zoonotic and disease X).
- Enhances global health security through rapid detection and response to emerging threats at the human, animal, and environmental interface



- Members (you) have authorised WOAH Headquarters to contact their National Delegates directly whenever health information is reported in the media or other sources that could involve an event legally requiring reporting or clarification to WOAH.
- Provide clarification on the animal disease situation.

#### Active Search Practical Exercises

#### **Exercise 1:**

News has highlighted that Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) has been confirmed in sheep and goats in country X's central Province.

Veterinary authorities have reported an outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in the country X's Central Province, where 25 goats and 15 sheep from a smallholder farm showed clinical signs consistent with PPR. Samples collected from the affected animals subsequently tested positive for the virus. "Two animals died, four were culled, and the remaining were vaccinated as part of an emergency response," the Chief Veterinary Officer announced.

The AST of WOAH writes to the Delegate of country x to seek clarification of the news.

Note: Country X has consistently reported the disease as absent in the six-monthly report both in domestic and wild



- 1. What would be the most appropriate response of the Delegate?
- a. Respond to confirm that the news is true and take no action
- b. Deny the news for fear of market loss
- c. Do not respond because this is not important
- d. Respond to the email and submit an immediate notification for the disease
- 2. Is the action taken by the AST of WOAH to contact the country about the news correct?
- •Yes, it is a mandate of WOAH to actively such for unofficial information about animal disease outbreaks. (Article.1.1.1 the right of the Headquarters to communicate directly with the Veterinary Authority and Article.1.1.2 (1))
- No, WOAH is interfering in the country's activities



#### **Exercise 2:**

News has highlighted that Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever is confirmed in humans in country F. The ministry of health confirmed what was mentioned in the news. However, the disease situation in animals is unknown.

CCHF is asymptomatic in animals, and the country has previously reported "disease notification" as a control measure that is applied in the country in case the disease is identified.

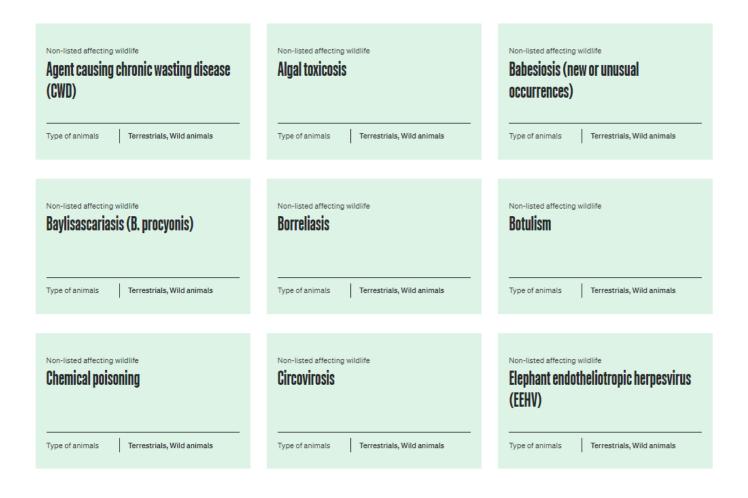
- 1. Is disease notification alone sufficient to reflect the disease situation in the country?
- a. Yes
- b. No
- 2. Give reasons for the answer you provide. (open ended)
- 3. What additional control measures are suitable to reflect the disease situation in the country? (open ended or word cloud)
- 4. Would the confirmation of cases in humans be helpful to support identification of cases in animals?
- A) Yes
- B) No
- 5. Give reasons for the answer you provide. (open ended)



## Reporting diseases in wildlife to WOAH



#### Animal Diseases - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health



#### Wildlife Health - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health



## **Wildlife Health**

Wildlife co-exists alongside humans and domestic animals. Wildlife populates ecosystems across the planet, whether it be in the seas, or roaming freely across forests and savannahs. Each species contributes to the balance of the ecosystem they live in. The health of wildlife is deeply entwined with the health of other animals, the environment and even humans. By protecting wildlife health, we safeguard biodiversity- and invest in a healthier, more sustainable future.

Overview Our Action Global Situation International Collaboration

Professional Guidance Resources











#### Avian influenza and Wildlife

#### Risk management for people working with wild birds







Guidelines for Working with Free-Ranging Wild Mammals in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH Protecting animals, preserving our future

#### Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Surveillance: An Overview<sup>1</sup>

#### Purpose of Wildlife Disease Surveillance

Wildlife disease surveillance can be a useful and complementary component of human and animal disease surveillance, monitoring, prevention and control programmes, as well as conservation efforts. In the context of animal health, wildlife disease surveillance may provide information of domestic and wild animal morbidity and mortality, identify changes in patterns of disease occurrence over time, and assist in early detection of disease outbreaks, including those linked to emerging diseases. Many of the pathogens on the OIE List can infect and be maintained for long or short periods of time in wild animals. Since there are many species of wildlife, there are varied risks of bi-directional disease transmission in different regions or areas, which are dictated by the wildlife species and types of livestock interfaces present. Thus, national wildlife disease surveillance programmes are crucial for understanding local risks to animal health and potential zonotic disease transmission.

"Wildlife disease surveillance" may also refer to pathogen surveillance in wildlife, given that infection with pathogen(s) may not always produce visible clinical signs associated with disease in a given species or at a given point of time. The objective of a surveillance programme should be clearly defined as to whether it is aimed at disease or pathogen detection.

Data collected for the OIE's non-listed pathogens and diseases in wildlife are not used to shape international trade policy in any way.

#### **Distinctions from Domestic Animal Surveillance**

Whereas farmers, animal handlers and veterinarians will commonly recognize illness in domestic animals, in most situations wild animals do not have this close observational vigilance and monitoring, which can limit detection and reporting of diseases in wildlife as well as access to data collected from other sources (CTAHS, p. 32). In addition, some diagnostic tests may not be validated for wild species in terms of specificity and sensitivity (OIE Reference Laboratories can provide guidance to help address this challenge) (Focal Point Manual, p. 34). There are also different stakeholders and participants; for example, wildlife biologists and ecologists should be engaged in the development, analysis, interpretation and communication of results for a wildlife disease surveillance programme. Additionally, hunters, wildlife managers or rehabilitators, conservation managers and other stakeholders may be key collaborators in acquiring specimens. While there are not always clear solutions for management and control of diseases in wildlife detected by surveillance efforts (CTAHS, pp. 41-43), knowledge of the occurrence of specific diseases and pathogens in wildlife can be used to reduce health and economic risks to domestic animals and people.

This document makes reference to two key resources that can be consulted for further information:

 World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Training manual on surveillance and international reporting of diseases

in wild animals (Focal Point Manual). 2nd OIE Training Workshop for Focal Points on Wildlife. 2015.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Guidelines for Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance (GTAHS). 2014.



Sharing information on wildlife diseases allows us to:

- Promote biodiversity and wildlife conservation
- Raising awareness of emerging threats for better protection





#### **WAHIS**

#### WOAHlisted/emerging diseases



Obligatory, IN (Immediate notification), FUR (Follow up report), SMR (Six-month report)



**WAHIS** 

#### Validated information

- by Member country
- by WOAH (WAHIAD department)

#### WOAH Website Data submission: WAHIS Support

56 Non-OIElisted diseases



Voluntary, ANNUAL



PowerBi interface

Non validated information





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Professional Guidance Resources

Region name



#### Who has shared inform



Wildlife Health - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

#### Wildlife disease-Situation report-2025-1 - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

## DISFASES Situation Report 01/25

#### Period covered: Jan - Jun 2025

This report provides an update of wildlife disease situation, according to the information submitted on listed diseases through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS).

A general introduction of the scope and objective of this report as well as global level of wildlife disease surveillance activities can be found on Wildlife Health - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

#### **Key messages and Recommendations**

- During the reporting period, 58 countries and territories reported 7,062 outbreaks and 14,757 cases of WOAH listed diseases in wildlife. Cases related to 14 diseases were reported in 244 different wildlife species, 13% of which are classified as being at risk of extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- The reporting of exceptional events affecting wildlife during the period mainly concerned African swine fever (ASF) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in several regions. This is a common situation also observed in previous situation reports and it indirectly shows the widespread existence of surveillance activities in WOAH members on these two specific diseases, not to mention their extensive distribution worldwide. In this report also Classical Swine Fever (CSF) recorded a significant number of outbreaks.
- Deaths and cases in 33 threatened species have been reported, representing 8% of the total number of cases notified during the period, and highlighting the impact of animal diseases on biodiversity conservation. The spread and persistence of ASF and HPAI in wildlife pose a threat not only to biodiversity (especially when the diseases are reported in fragmented and threatened avian and mammal populations), but also to livestock health, food security, and human health at a global level.
- During this period, two other diseases played an unexpectedly significant role in terms of impact on biodiversity: Anthrax, which affected two species with 'Near threatened' (African buffalo) and 'Vulnerable' (Hippopotamus) status in Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), and Bluetongue (BT), which affected a species with 'Near threatened' status (Mouflon), in Andorra.
- . From a public health perspective, it is important to highlight that during the period, eight out of the 14 diseases reported are classified as zoonoses.

- •All wild species terrestrial and aquatic
- All health topics not covered by the WOAH Code/WAHIS: Nonlisted wildlife health events, included undiagnosed
- •Complementarity with existing reporting paths

Wildlife health reporting system



- Disconnected from WAHIS
- Voluntary
- Non-listed disease of wildlife
- Derisking

No impact on trade, no reputational damage



- Simple, intuitive interface, convivial
- Eco-design
- Mobile first
- Data ethics

User centric experience



- Community of users
- Approved by Delegate and/or WOAH
- Community of practice

Closed community of users



- Real-time reporting
- Minimum (core) useful data needed for epidemiological inference

Real time data sharing



- Communication success stories (incentive reporting)
- Training and e-learning

Communication and training



- Increased data flow
- Simple analysis tools
- Country-level dashboard
- Rapid risk analysis

Added value to Member



- Animal health ontology
- Early detection, early RA, early response
- Context

Added value to the international community







# Gala Dinner tonight 8pm

## Thank you!

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