

Follow up on recommendations of the **17th Conference of the WOAH Regional** **Commission for the Middle East** **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023**

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18th Conference of the Regional
Commission for the Middle East



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Technical item I: One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

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- **Dr El Moubasher Abubakr Farag:** Member of OHHLEP and Acting Head of Communicable Diseases Control Programs at the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar)



Technical item II: Ensuring strong performing and financially sustainable Veterinary Services

- **Dr Ahmed El Idrissi**
WOAH Consultant





Recommendation No 1:

One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services



17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023

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Recommendation No. 1 Technical item I (with questionnaire): One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services





- Event reports
 - 2025 WOAHA Regional Events in the Middle East - WOAHA – Middle East: <https://rr-middleeast.woah.org/en/>
 - 2024 WOAHA Regional Events in the Middle East: - WOAHA – Middle East <https://rr-middleeast.woah.org/en/>
- [Global Database for Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Country Self-Assessment Survey \(TrACSS\)](#)
- [ANIMUSE](#)
- [PVS Pathway Information System \(PVS IS\)](#)
- Information sharing from Members



Final

17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023

Recommendation No. 1

One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The use of the One Health approach, including effective communication with the stakeholders and the general public, will be key in the prevention of zoonotic diseases and future pandemics and other health threats such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), food safety hazards and vector borne diseases;
2. The 27th Tripartite Annual Executive Meeting agreed to jointly develop a strategy and action plan to prevent future zoonotic pandemics through the One Health approach;
3. The One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), which was launched in October 2022, is a collaborative, participatory effort among FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH and supported by scientific advice from the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) to strengthen country-level collaboration, communication, capacity building, and coordination equally across all sectors responsible for addressing health concerns at the human-animal-environment interface;
4. Operationalisation of One Health requires a "whole of society and whole of government approach" with leadership from animal, human, and environmental sectors; community, NGOs and academia involvement, including collaboration with sub-regional, regional, and global partners. It also requires inter-ministerial cooperation and data sharing as well as coordinated research;
5. Supportive political environment and legislative structure at national, regional and global levels as well as adequate financial support are key for the successful implementation of multisectoral initiatives;
6. WOAH has invested significantly to play an active role in the Tripartite and later the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health, in G7, and G20, as well as during key ministerial encounters;
7. The UN General Assembly political declaration adopted on September 2023 calling for strengthening high-level international coordination allowing Members commitment to better prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics;
8. WOAH continues to ensure that guidelines, information, and key notes are regularly shared with Members, and relevant activities are organised to provide Members with all the necessary elements to work at national level and advocate to the relevant government authorities to commit and create a national platform for One Health implementation;
9. WOAH's work has already yielded positive results, one concrete example is the PVS Pathway being considered as one of the selection criteria for the Pandemic Fund applications used by the World Bank;
10. The recommendations of the Quadripartite Regional Meeting, held in Muscat in May 2023, to accelerate the implementation of One Health in Eastern Mediterranean Region and that the "Friends of One Health" group facilitates discussions and exchanges with key partners regarding the articulation of information to be included in the pandemic treaty to ensure the animal health sector is taken into account and included at all levels of the negotiations; and
11. The Regional One Health Operational Framework is aligned with the Global Quadripartite OH JPA and aims at supporting Members to accelerate the implementation of the One Health concept at national level.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBERS:

1. Recognise the importance of the One Health approach in the prevention of zoonotic diseases, future pandemics and other health threats at the animal-human-environment interface and therefore, equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding, domestic and international resources across health sectors to support One Health coordination activities;
2. Address legislative gaps to ensure that there is a solid legal foundation for One Health coordination and implementation, including policies and legislation that promote intersectoral collaboration and information sharing as well as integration of the environmental health considerations into animal and human health policies and programs, including at regional and subregional level;
3. Encourage and facilitate collaboration between human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors, including research and academia, through establishing or strengthening One Health platforms, plans, strategies and multisectoral coordination mechanisms and M&E frameworks;
4. Ensure the sustainability of communication and information sharing channels between sectors.

THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS:

5. Recognise themselves as partners in the health sector and take advantage of the clear strategy and tools available to ensure the operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level, including being part of the "Friends of One Health" group;
6. Raise awareness on the importance of the One Health approach to foster political support, create trust with government officials, health workers, veterinarians, farmers as well as with different civil societies and stakeholders to encourage government officials prioritising it in their policies and allocating resources for the operationalisation of One Health at national level;
7. Take advantage of all the support provided by WOAH in order to mobilise national authorities and ensure leadership at national level so that the animal health sector is well involved in the One Health agenda, responsibilities regarding One Health are appropriately shared between the relevant sectors, and the contribution of the Veterinary Services to the national, regional and global health security is well recognised by all relevant actors;
8. Invest in capacity building and training initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of the veterinary workforce including in the field of veterinary epidemiology ;
9. Establish comprehensive and coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to monitor the progress of implementation and to assess the impact of One Health initiatives effectively;
10. Improve risk communication and community engagement strategies to enhance public awareness and engagement in One Health issues;
11. Ensure risk-based prioritisation of actions highlighted in the OH JPA and improve financing and coordination strategies for effective implementation.

WOAH:

12. Continue actively working to ensure that the voice of Veterinary Services is heard in all relevant political fora in which the global health governance is discussed;
13. Continue promoting strong multisectoral collaboration with FAO, UNEP and WHO through the Quadripartite Collaboration on OH supported by the scientific advice of the OHHLEP;
14. Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially through IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and other One Health operational tools developed under the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide to facilitate operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level ;
15. Encourage harmonised sub-regional and regional coordination mechanisms for providing technical support, knowledge and expertise sharing to Members.

Targets

Recommendations for:

1- Government of members

2- Veterinary authorities of members

3- For WOAHA





Government of members

1- Strengthen National Commitment and Sustainable Financing for One Health

Recognise the importance of the One Health approach in the prevention of zoonotic diseases, future pandemics and other health threats at the animal-human-environment interface and therefore, equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding, domestic and international resources across health sectors to support One Health coordination activities.

2- Establish Strong Legal and Policy Foundations for One Health Implementation

Address legislative gaps to ensure that there is a solid legal foundation for One Health coordination and implementation, including policies and legislation that promote intersectoral collaboration and information sharing as well as integration of the environmental health considerations into animal and human health policies and programs, including at regional and subregional level.

3- Institutionalise Multisectoral One Health Platforms and Coordination Mechanisms

Encourage and facilitate collaboration between human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors, including research and academia, through establishing or strengthening One Health platforms, plans, strategies and multisectoral coordination mechanisms and M&E frameworks.

4- Ensure Sustainable Communication and Information Sharing Across Sectors

Ensure the sustainability of communication and information sharing channels between sectors.



Veterinary authorities of members

5- Position Veterinary Services as Central Partners in One Health:

Recognise themselves as partners in the health sector and take advantage of the clear strategy and tools available to ensure the operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level, including being part of the “Friends of One Health” group.

6- Advocate for Political and Social Support for One Health

Raise awareness on the importance of the One Health approach to foster political support, create trust with government officials, health workers, veterinarians, farmers as well as with different civil societies and stakeholders to encourage government officials prioritising it in their policies and allocating resources for the operationalisation of One Health at national level.

7- Lead National Engagement and Visibility within the One Health Agenda

Take advantage of all the support provided by WOAH in order to mobilise national authorities and ensure leadership at national level so that the animal health sector is well involved in the One Health agenda, responsibilities regarding One Health are appropriately shared between the relevant sectors, and the contribution of the Veterinary Services to the national, regional and global health security is well recognised by all relevant actors.

8- Strengthen Veterinary Workforce Capacity and Skills

Invest in capacity building and training initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of the veterinary workforce including in the field of veterinary epidemiology.



Veterinary authorities of members

9- Establish Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for One Health Progress

Establish comprehensive and coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to monitor the progress of implementation and to assess the impact of One Health initiatives effectively.

10- Improve Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Improve risk communication and community engagement strategies to enhance public awareness and engagement in One Health issues.

11- Apply Risk-Based Prioritisation and Strengthen Financing Mechanisms

Ensure risk-based prioritisation of actions highlighted in the OH JPA and improve financing and coordination strategies for effective implementation.



For WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH WOAH

12- Advocate for Veterinary Services in Global Health Governance

Continue actively working to ensure that the voice of Veterinary Services is heard in all relevant political fora in which the global health governance is discussed.

13- Strengthen Quadripartite Collaboration for Global One Health Leadership

Continue promoting strong multisectoral collaboration with FAO, UNEP and WHO through the Quadripartite Collaboration on OH supported by the scientific advice of the OHHLEP.

14- Support Members through Operational Tools and Capacity Building

Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially through IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and other One Health operational tools developed under the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide to facilitate operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level.

15- Promote Regional Harmonisation and Technical Exchange

Encourage harmonised sub-regional and regional coordination mechanisms for providing technical support, knowledge and expertise sharing to Members.



Grouped Recommendations (5 Pillars)

12

Detailed commitments adopted at the 17th Conference (Riyadh, 2023)

The 5 One Health JPA Action Tracks

Action Track 1 – Enhance One Health capacities to strengthen health systems

→ Recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Action Track 2 – Reduce risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics

→ Recommendations (6, 7, 8, 9)

Action Track 3 – Control and eliminate endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases

→ Recommendations (10, 11)

Action Track 4 – Strengthen the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks

→ Recommendations (12, 13)

Action Track 5 – Curb the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and strengthen integrated surveillance

→ Recommendations (14, 15)

Action Track 6 - Integrating the environment into One Health



From Commitments to Implementation

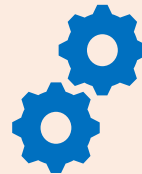
Key One Health
achievements and
updates in the Middle
East region

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

JPA Implementation follows 5 steps



Implemented in
Members?



Plans in place?



More activities
are expected?



The six Action tracks of the OH JPA

There are six interdependent 'action tracks' that together contribute towards achieving sustainable health and food systems, reducing global health threats, and improving ecosystem management



National Workshops as an entry point

- Involve national authorities, NGOs, donors, and intergovernmental organisations (including the Quadripartite), across human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors
- Begin a 5-step approach to strengthen One Health implementation at national level (see side bar)
- Offer a framework for starting OH JPA activities or aligning existing OH interventions with the JPA.

Expected outcomes of National OH JPA workshop?

- ✓ Inclusivity and engagement of all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Improved national One Health governance and coordination
- ✓ Multisectoral review and development of a costed One Health action plan linked to existing plans and initiatives.
- ✓ Prioritization of activities
- ✓ Review and adapt a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework

Implementation of the JPA at the national level follows 5 steps:



1 Situation Analysis



2 Set-up/Strengthen of One Health governance and coordination



3 Planning for implementation



4 Implementation of national One Health action plans



5 Review, sharing and incorporation of lessons learned

Who to contact?:

- #####
- @
- www.

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



Situation analysis



**Implemented in
several Members**



**More activities are
expected in 2026.**

WOAH PVS pathway :

- KSA,UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, QATAR, Oman

National Bridging Workshops: (Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia)

One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization

UAE-Jordan-Sudan – Somalia

Joint Risk Assessments(JRAs) :

- UAE-Qatar-Jordan- Egypt- Iraq- Sudan- Pakistan- Afghanistan

OH training events:

- Jordan- Egypt



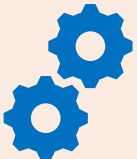
Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services



Set Up/Strengthen One Health Governance and Coordination



Implemented in several Members



Plans in place, challenges persist

Progress and achievements

EMRO 5-year Operational Framework (Muscat 2023)

Muscat Manifesto reaffirmed One Health as a regional political priority; endorsed multisectoral collaboration for pandemic preparedness.

Regional One Health Action Plan

- Strengthened regional and national governance for coordinated decision-making.
- Focus on prevention, preparedness, and response to health threats at all levels.
- Enhanced communication channels for timely information sharing and joint action.

Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism

- Facilitated cross-sectoral collaboration (human, animal, and environmental health).
- Improved coordinated response to reduce the risk and impact of health threats using a One Health approach efficiently, effectively, and equitably.

Formal National One Health Coordination across Ministry of Health, Agriculture & Environment authorities Or National coordination mechanism Or National OH Action Plans: [UAE](#), [Egypt](#), [Bahrain](#), [KSA](#), [Jordan](#), [Kuwait](#), [Qatar](#), [Oman](#)

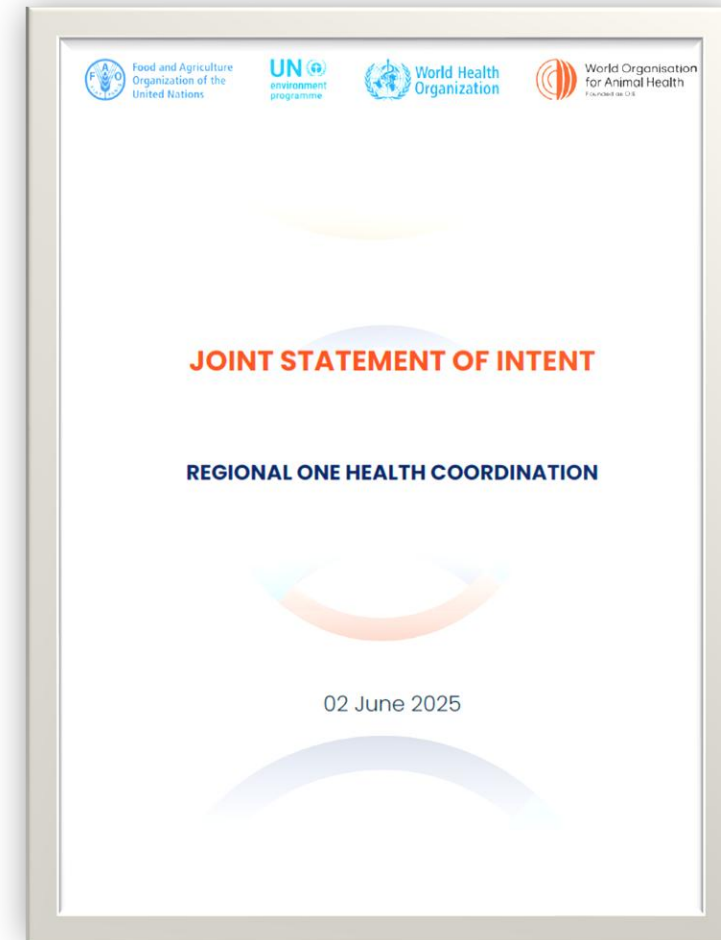
ACTION TRACK 1 – Strengthen One Health Capacities & Governance

- EMRO 5-year Operational Framework (Muscat 2023)



ACTION TRACK 1 – Strengthen One Health Capacities & Governance

- Regional OH Coordination Mechanism & Action Plan (2025–2027)

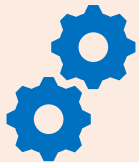


Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



Set Up/Strengthen
One Health
Governance and
Coordination



Plans in place,
challenges persist



More activities are
expected in 2026.

Joint Statement of Intent for Regional OH Coordination Workshop
on the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA). **Manama, Bahrain**
14-16 October 2025



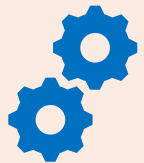
- ✓ Across all participants, one message was clear: **One Health is not a concept it is a shared responsibility.**
- ✓ Participants reaffirmed the importance of **trust, transparency, and collaboration** across ministries and countries.
- ✓ The outcomes provide a solid foundation for **the regional roadmap** and for future support from **the Quadripartite and potential donors**, ensuring the collective efforts translate into **coordinated, impactful, and sustainable action** across the MENA region.

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



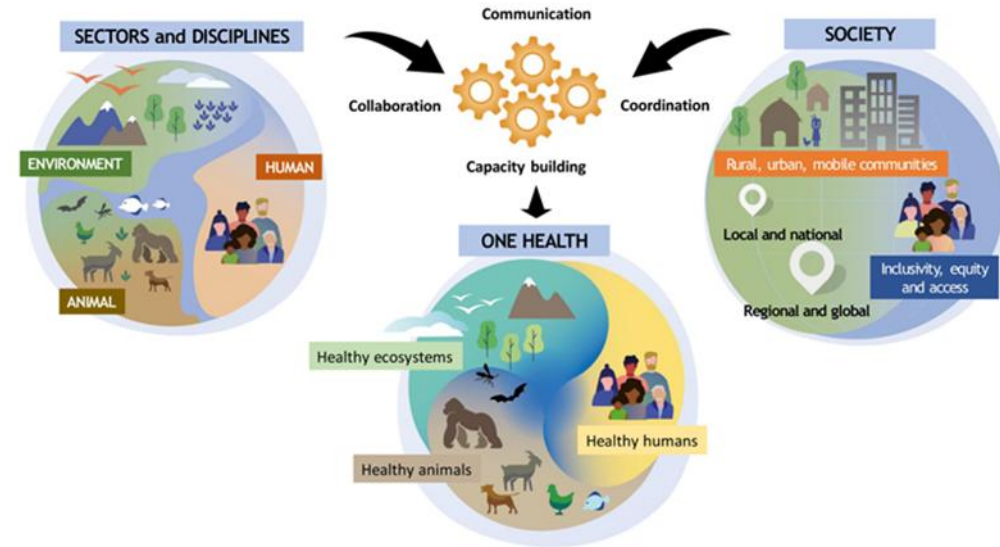
Set Up/Strengthen One Health Governance and Coordination



Plans under MPTF
Sec Processing



Implementation
Expected



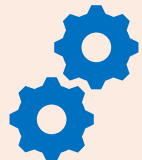
- Egypt & Lebanon selected for MPTF funding: These countries were chosen to receive support from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), enabling them to implement **targeted One Health initiatives** and strengthen capacity to prevent and respond to health threats.
- Quadripartite commitment to regional resource mobilisation: **The four partners (WHO, FAO, OIE, UNEP) pledge coordinated efforts to mobilize financial, technical, and human resources across the region to enhance One Health programs and sustainable health security.**

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



Planning for implementation



Plans in place,
challenges persist

Muscat 2023 regional follow-up mechanism

Joint Statement of Intent for Regional OH Coordination Workshop on the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA). **Manama, Bahrain 14-16 October 2025**

OH RQPT 2025-2027 activities timeline

M&E (Work in progress) to follow up effectively and efficiently



More activities are
expected in 2026.

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



Implementation of One Health Action Plans



Implemented in several Members

- Qatar drafting national OH Framework



A new One Health Framework in Qatar for future emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases preparedness and response

Devendra Bansal^a, Shariq Jaffrey^a, Noora Abdulla Al-Emadi^b, Mahmoud Hassan^b, Md. Mazharul Islam^b, Wasan Abdulla A. Al-Baker^c, Eman Radwan^d, Dhoha Hamdani^d, Mohammed Ismail Haroun^e, Khalid Enan^b, Mohammed Nour^b, Peter Valentine Coyle^e, Abdulla Al Marri^b, Abdul Aziz Al-Zeyara^b, Nidal M. Younus^b, Hadi Mohamad Yassine^f, Asmaa Ali Al Thani^g, Fatima Darkhshan^h, Minahil Khalid^h, Heba Marhous^b, Markos Tibboⁱ, Mohamed Alhosani^j, Tariq Taha^j, Chadia Wannous^j, Mohamed Al Hajri^k, Roberto Bertolini^l, Muna A. Al-Maslamani^m, Abdullatif Al Khalⁿ, Hanad Eid Al Romaihi^o, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin J. Al Thani^p, Ahmed El Idrissi^q, Elmoubashar Abd Farag^r

^a Department of Public Health, Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar

^b Department of Animal Resources, Ministry of Municipality, Doha, Qatar

^c Food Safety & Environment Health Manager, Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar

^d Health Care Quality Management and Patient Safety, Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar

^e Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar

^f Biomedical Research Center, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

^g Biomedical Sciences and Health, Qatar National Research Fund, Doha, Qatar

^h Eastern Mediterranean Office, World Health Organisation, Cairo, Egypt

ⁱ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^j Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, USA

^k Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^l Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^m Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

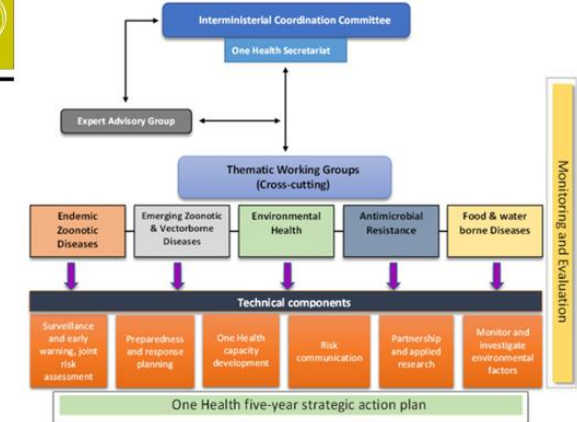
ⁿ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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^q Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

^r Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Subregional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Yemen, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



National OH action plan being developed and implemented:

Egypt

Jordan

Qatar

Yemen

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Progress and achievements



Review, Sharing and Incorporation of Lessons Learned



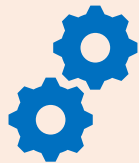
More activities are
expected in the future.

- **UAE COVID-19 Response** – The UAE demonstrated effective **One Health integration** during the COVID-19 response, leveraging the **ADAFSA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases** to strengthen cross-sector coordination and operational lessons for zoonotic disease management.

- **QPTs Regional Meeting (May 2023)** – A regional meeting of **Quality Performance Teams (QPTs)** brought together 140 staff from human, animal, and environmental sectors across all member states to **share lessons learned, review guidance, and strengthen implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), the regional One Health framework, Technical and Zoonotic Guidelines (TZG), and Operational Tools (OTs).**

Recommendation No 1: ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

Challenges:



Plans in place,
challenges persist

Political & Governance Barriers

- **Political instability:** Ongoing instability hinders continuity and commitment to JPA implementation.
- **Governance gaps:** Limited institutional capacity and weak engagement of key ministries (e.g., environment) reduce coordination effectiveness.
- **Legal gaps:** Absence of harmonised One Health legislation for reporting, monitoring, and coordinated response.

Coordination & Institutional Gaps

- **Sectoral silos:** Weak coordination between health, agriculture, and environment sectors; limited mechanisms for joint planning, surveillance, and data sharing.
- **Fragmented mechanisms:** Many existing coordination bodies lack clear mandates and accountability frameworks.

Awareness & Policy Prioritisation Challenges


- **Low awareness and prioritisation:** Limited understanding among decision-makers and the public impedes mainstreaming of One Health into national policies.
- **Weak advocacy:** Political will and community-level awareness remain low across several Member States.

Financial & Resource Constraints

- **Resource limitations:** Inadequate and unsustainable funding restricts effective implementation and response to outbreaks.
- **Dependence on donor support:** Many initiatives rely on external funding, affecting sustainability.

Technical & Capacity Limitations

- **Competence gaps:** Shortage of trained personnel, especially One Health field epidemiologists and environmental health experts.
- **Limited technical expertise:** Weak multisectoral training and lack of continuous professional development at national and local levels.



Recommendation No 1: **ONE HEALTH: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation Between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services**

Future directions and priorities :

Assessment & Targeted Planning

- **Status and Readiness Assessment:** Conduct a regional analysis to evaluate each country's readiness for JPA adoption and implementation.
- **Targeted Interventions:** Focus efforts on countries with existing institutional frameworks and tailor support to their national priorities and capacities.
- **Goal:** Build an evidence-based foundation for equitable and phased regional implementation.

Advocacy, Alignment & Strategic Partnerships

- **Advocacy and Engagement:** Leverage regional platforms (e.g., GCC, OIC, Arab League meetings) to strengthen political commitment.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Ensure alignment of OH actions with broader regional organizations (OIC, Arab League, GCC Health Council) to sustain coherence.
- **Success Stories and Investment:** Highlight regional achievements and opportunities to attract high-level commitment and global investment.
- **Goal:** Position One Health as a regional political and development priority.

Collaboration & Stakeholder Coordination

- **Stakeholder Database:** Develop a comprehensive mapping of regional stakeholders and partners to enhance coordination and synergy.
- **Inclusive Engagement:** Create mechanisms to engage countries with limited access to Quadripartite organizations or underrepresented sectors.
- **Goal:** Strengthen regional collaboration through inclusive and transparent partnerships.

Contextualisation & Adaptability

- **Context-Specific Approaches:** Design interventions adapted to each country's political, economic, and cultural realities.
- **Flexible Solutions:** Promote adaptable One Health models that remain functional despite political instability or resource constraints.
- **Goal:** Maintain progress across all contexts, ensuring no country is left behind in JPA implementation.



Recommendation No 2

Ensuring strong performing and financially sustainable Veterinary Services in the Region



- Event reports
 - 2025 WOAH Regional Events in the Middle East - WOAH – Middle East <https://rr-middleeast.woah.org/en/>
 - 2024 WOAH Regional Events in the Middle East - WOAH – Middle East <https://rr-middleeast.woah.org/en/>
- Information sharing from Members

Targets:

Recommendations for:

1-Government of members

2-Veterinary authorities of members

3-For WOA

Final

17th Conference of WOA Regional Commission for Middle East
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1 – 5 October 2023

Recommendation No 2

Ensuring strong performing and financially sustainable Veterinary Services in the Region

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Veterinary Services provide the fundamental management system for animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in WOA Members and play a crucial role in ensuring food security and safety and safeguarding health security by controlling animal diseases and tackling emerging zoonoses at their animal sources ;
2. Veterinary Services activities are expanding to embrace evolving trends and challenges, highlighting the need to develop skills and competencies to adapt to these changes;
3. Veterinary Services generate significant financial resources from services rendered and the need for increasing financial investments and funding for animal health and food safety
4. The increasing risk of global health threats, particularly outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases and emerging zoonoses, can rapidly expand to affect multiple Members, highlighting the need for mutual assistance among Members and collective and coordinated preparedness and response, nationally, regionally and globally;
5. The Middle East region remains vulnerable to increased risk of introduction and spread of animal diseases and zoonoses via trade and cross border movements of animals and animal products;
6. Controlling transboundary animal diseases (such as PPR and FMD) of concern for the Middle East are a shared interest between infected and uninfected Members and should be considered as a global public good;
7. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-funded in many Members with critical deficiencies in various competencies of the veterinary domain;
8. Members in the Middle East give a strategic importance to capacity building to develop and maintain a skilled, competent and appropriately resourced workforce in order to address the challenges facing national Veterinary Services in the region; and
9. During the 15th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle, Members were encouraged to facilitate the establishment of legal and administrative frameworks for effective, efficient and sustainable PPPs.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR MIDDLE EAST RECOMMENDS THAT

GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBERS:

1. Deploy all efforts to further invest in the animal health sector and the Veterinary Services to strengthen their governance, sustainability and capabilities to meet national, regional and international obligations, including with WOA, therefore contributing to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030;
2. Develop a regional strategy creating an enabling environment for cooperation, collaboration and solidarity between the Members in the region and beyond to collectively address challenges facing the Veterinary Services including the risk of introduction and spread of diseases through uncontrolled cross border animal movements and regional and interregional trade.

THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS

3. Further engage in the PVS pathway and implement the relevant PVS report recommendations to improve the capability of their Veterinary Services for effective control of the sanitary status of animals and animal products;
4. Pursue their efforts to update and complete their legislative and regulatory frameworks to increase authority of each element in the veterinary domain, and to implement and enforce the overall animal health and welfare policies and strategies in compliance with WOA standards;
5. Strengthen existing national financial mechanisms and actively seek alternative financial arrangements, for example engaging with the private sector and other relevant competent authorities to help leverage the necessary expertise and resources, developing advocacy packages to build the case for engagement and investment in animal health, while setting up priorities and generating additional revenue streams for long term sustainability;
6. Commit to capacity building activities, in coordination with WOA and development partners to strengthen the competencies of public and private veterinary services for ensuring better animal health and welfare and safer trade in animals and animal products;
7. Work actively with WOA and partners to utilise funding opportunities for building resilient and sustainable health systems including prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics, global strategies and initiatives and other global efforts such as prevention and control of AMR, global eradication of PPR and Rabies by 2030.

AND THAT WOA

8. Continue to support Members through the PVS pathway and associated capacity building programmes to improve the performance of their VS particularly in management and regulatory aspects, strategic planning, animal health surveillance systems, laboratory capacities, disease control policies and trade in animals and animal products;
9. Work closely with partners such as FAO, WHO and UNEP, as well as resource partners to support Members in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services to effectively manage the risk of transboundary animal diseases and emerging zoonoses of global and regional concern; and
10. Continue through its Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and in collaboration with its global partners, support the Members to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination and maintain a regular dialogue on disease control policies and emerging regional issues pertaining to animal health and welfare, food security and global health security.

most coherent and WOA-aligned way to group the remaining recommendations by **WOAH thematic areas**. This structure follows existing WOA frameworks (PVS Pathway, Standards, One Health, Sustainable VS, Regional Cooperation, etc.) and aligns with how WOA normally organises its work.

WOAH-Thematic Grouping of TI 2 Recommendations

Each recommendation placed under the most relevant **thematic pillar** used by WOA.

1 Governance & Strategic Planning of Veterinary Services

Rec 1 — Invest in the animal health sector and Veterinary Services

Rec 2 — Develop a regional strategy for cooperation and solidarity

Rec 3 — Engage in the PVS Pathway and implement PVS recommendations

2 Veterinary Legislation & Regulatory Frameworks

Rec 4 — Update and complete veterinary legislative and regulatory frameworks

3 Sustainable Financing of Veterinary Services

Rec 5 — Strengthen financial mechanisms and seek alternative financing

4 Capacity Building, Workforce Competencies & Training

Rec 6 — Commit to coordinated capacity-building activities

Rec 8 — WOA support through PVS and capacity-building programmes

Rec 9 — Work with FAO, WHO, UNEP to build VS capacity for TADs & zoonoses

5 Pandemic Preparedness, AMR, and Global Initiatives

Rec 7 — Utilise funding to build resilient systems for pandemics, AMR, PPR, Rabies

6 Regional Cooperation, Coordination & Dialogue

Rec 10 — Strengthen regional cooperation and maintain dialogue on emerging issues

1 Governance & Strategic Planning of Veterinary Services

Rec 1 — Invest in the animal health sector and Veterinary Services

Rec 2 — Develop a regional strategy for cooperation and solidarity

Rec 3 — Engage in the PVS Pathway and implement PVS recommendations

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

8+ Members engaged (or re-engaged) in the PVS Pathway, including evaluations, PVS follow-ups, and Gap Analysis missions. Multiple countries updated their National Animal Health Strategies with alignment to WOAHA standards and the PVS recommendations.

Regional dialogue strengthened through the QPT One Health Meetings, **GF TADs Coordination Sessions**, and **WOAH Regional meetings**. Cross-border risk discussions held for PPR, FMD, HPAI, LSD, RVF, **strengthening strategic planning and governance**.

Foundation of a **regional framework for early-warning and risk communication** under WOAHA coordination Thanks to the 2025 Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism and Action Plan

Achievement Level:  **Good Progress**

2 Veterinary Legislation & Regulatory Frameworks

Rec 4 — Update and complete veterinary legislative and regulatory frameworks

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

6 Members initiated or completed **Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)** steps.

Legal reviews conducted on:

- Veterinary authority mandates,
- Official disease reporting obligations,
- Import/export control procedures,
- Delegation of authority to private veterinarians.

Revision of **animal welfare legislation** and alignment with WOAHA standards progressing in several Members.

Training workshops held on **legislative drafting principles** and **regulatory enforcement**.

Achievement Level:  **Moderate Progress**

3 Sustainable Financing of Veterinary Services

Rec 5 — Strengthen financial mechanisms and seek alternative financing

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

Several Members assessed financing gaps through **PVS reports** and **Gap Analysis**, identifying sustainability needs.

Initial steps taken in select countries to explore **public–private partnerships (PPP)** for:

- Vaccination campaigns,
- Laboratory testing,
- Surveillance outsourcing.

Advocacy initiatives launched with Ministries of Agriculture and Finance to highlight animal health investment needs.

However:

- No widespread adoption of cost-recovery systems,
- Limited new funding streams,
- PPP frameworks remain under-developed.

This explains **why Rec 5 is the weakest progress area**.

Achievement Level:  **Low Progress**

4 Capacity Building, Workforce Competencies & Training

Rec 6 — Commit to coordinated capacity-building activities

Rec 8 — WOAHA support through PVS and capacity-building programmes

Rec 9 — Work with FAO, WHO, UNEP to build VS capacity for TADs & zoonoses

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

1. PVS Capacity-Building Activities (Rec 6 & Rec 8)

PVS Training delivered to multiple Members on using the PVS Tool, interpreting PVS findings, and operationalising recommendations. **Workshops on PVS Critical Competencies**, enabling countries to self-assess governance, surveillance, laboratories and workforce systems. **Training on strategic planning and use of PVS Gap Analysis outcomes** to inform national investment prioritisation.

2. Workforce Development (Rec 6 & Rec 9)

WOAH's Workforce Development programme supports continuous education, paraprofessional strengthening, and surveillance/epidemiology training. **Since 2022–23, several national workshops, VPP curriculum missions, and survey-response trainings have been delivered.**

"Achievement Level:  Strong Progress

4 Capacity Building, Workforce Competencies & Training

Rec 6 — Commit to coordinated capacity-building activities

Rec 8 — WOAHA support through PVS and capacity-building programmes

Rec 9 — Work with FAO, WHO, UNEP to build VS capacity for TADs & zoonoses

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

3. Laboratory & Diagnostic Capacity Building (Rec 8 & 9)

Multiple regional laboratory workshops: Strengthening of sample management, biosafety, and quality management systems

4. One Health & Zoonotic Disease Training (Rec 9)

Joint training delivered by **FAO–WHO–WOAH–UNEP** on One Health coordination mechanisms.

Capacity-building sessions on emerging diseases (MERS-CoV, H5N1, RVF) across several Members.

Training of multisectoral teams on outbreak investigation and emergency response.

5. AMR & Antimicrobial Stewardship (Rec 9)

Technical workshops to enhance national **AMR surveillance** capacities.

Training on prudent use of antimicrobials in animals and harmonised surveillance methodologies.

Achievement Level:  **Strong Progress**

5 Pandemic Preparedness, AMR, and Global Initiatives

Rec 7 — Utilise funding to build resilient systems for pandemics, AMR, PPR, Rabies

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

1. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

National AMR action plans updated in multiple Members (Jordan, KSA, UAE in place), OH AMR MPTF (Lebanon and Egypt in progress)

Regional workshops for harmonised surveillance methodologies and prudent antimicrobial use.

Participation in global AMR networks and reporting aligned with WOAHA standards.

2. Pandemic Preparedness

National and regional contingency plans developed or updated.

Simulation exercises for outbreak preparedness still needs to be conducted with WOAHA and partners.

Engagement in funding mechanisms such as the Pandemic Fund and One Health Investment Programmes.

3. Global Disease Initiatives

Active participation in **PPR eradication roadmap, Zero by 30 Rabies initiative**, and other WOAHA global programs.

Regional coordination for cross-border disease control aligned with international standards.

Achievement Level:  **Moderate Progress**

Regional Cooperation, Coordination & Dialogue

Rec 10 — Strengthen regional cooperation and maintain dialogue on emerging issues

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

Reinforced cooperation through:

Regional Commission meetings (2023 and 2024)

Sub-regional coordination sessions for the Gulf, Technical meetings on regional TADs and harmonised control strategies.

Data-sharing and technical dialogue enhanced for:

PPR,

FMD,

MERS-CoV surveillance in camels,











...

Improved networks: AQMENET, CAMENET, laboratory network meetings...




Engagement in **inter-regional** coordination (North Africa, Europe, Asia) for transboundary disease risk.

Achievement Level:  **Good Progress**

Regional VS Performance Dashboard

Recommendation	Status	Achievement (%)
Rec 1 – Investment in Veterinary Services		75%
Rec 2 – Regional Cooperation Strategy		55%
Rec 3 – PVS Pathway Engagement		60%
Rec 4 – Legislation & Regulatory Reforms		80%
Rec 5 – Financial Sustainability Mechanisms		30%
Rec 6 – Capacity Building		85%
Rec 7 – Global Funding & Pandemic Preparedness		65%
Rec 8 – WOAHP Support through PVS Pathway		90%
Rec 9 – Partnerships (FAO/WHO/UNEP)		60%
Rec 10 – Regional Cooperation & Dialogue		80%

Legend

-  Completed / Strong Progress
-  Moderate Progress / Ongoing
-  Limited Progress / Needs Attention

Regional Rec N°2 Performance Dashboard

Thematic Area	Recommendations Included	Status	Achievement (%)
Governance & Strategic Planning	Rec 1, Rec 2, Rec 3	<div> <div> </div> <div>→ overall </div> </div>	63% average
Veterinary Legislation & Regulatory Frameworks	Rec 4	<div></div>	80%
Sustainable Financing of VS	Rec 5	<div></div>	30%
Capacity Building, Workforce & Training	Rec 6, Rec 8, Rec 9	<div></div>	78% average
Pandemic Preparedness, AMR & Global Initiatives	Rec 7	<div></div>	65%
Regional Cooperation & Dialogue	Rec 10	<div></div>	80%

Legend

- Completed / Strong Progress
- Moderate Progress / Ongoing
- Limited Progress / Needs Attention

**Final Conclusion – Regional
Implementation of
Veterinary Services
Recommendations**

- **Overall Implementation Status:**
- Most recommendations (Recs 1–4, 6–10) show **moderate to strong progress**, reflecting solid institutional, technical, and coordination achievements.
- Recommendation 5 stands out as the **only weak point**, reflecting slower implementation due to structural, political, and financial complexities.

Recommendation 5 Overview

Title: Recommendation 5 –
Financial Sustainability
Mechanisms

Traffic Light: ● → **Red**
(weak progress)

Objective:
Strengthen national financial
mechanisms and explore
alternative arrangements to
ensure sustainable veterinary
services.

Rec 5 is the weakest progress area, why?

- **Structural Complexity:** Requires inter-ministerial coordination, treasury approval, and legislation
- **High-Level Commitment Needed:** Beyond technical and institutional capacity
- **Operational Proof Required:** Progress cannot be counted until mechanisms are fully implemented
- **Global Pattern:** Consistently slowest recommendation across WOA regions?
- **External Dependencies:** Success depends on private sector engagement and legislative reforms.

Key Actions:

- Engage private sector and relevant authorities
- Leverage technical and financial resources
- Develop advocacy packages for investment in animal health

Final Conclusion – Regional Implementation of Veterinary Services Recommendations

- **Key Strengths:**
 - Governance and regulatory frameworks are being strengthened
 - Veterinary capacity building and technical trainings are advancing well
 - PVS engagement and regional dialogue are active and effective
 - Partnerships with international organizations (WOAH, FAO, WHO, UNEP) support implementation
- **Brakes / Weaknesses:**
- **Rec 5 – Financial Sustainability Mechanisms:**
 - Requires inter-ministerial coordination, treasury approval, and legislation
 - Emergency funds and compensation frameworks are not yet fully operational
 - Private sector engagement and alternative financing models are still in early stages

**Final Conclusion – Regional
Implementation of
Veterinary Services
Recommendations**

- **Areas for Improvement / Next Steps:**
- **Focus on operationalising Rec 5:** accelerate legal, financial, and policy actions
- **Enhance advocacy and political engagement:** highlight the importance of sustainable financing for animal health
- **Promote regional collaboration and best practice sharing** to support countries facing similar barriers
- **Monitor progress regularly** using concrete indicators, to convert planning into measurable action



“If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.”

“If you can’t measure it, you can’t follow it.”





★ Clarification

- The percentages and the overall needs to be **calculated from real regional datasets**, because don't have an **M&E data, survey results, country self-assessments, or progress indicators.**

➡ **The results would be purely illustrative placeholders**, designed to show the *format* of a dashboard, *not* the actual achievements

★ Why?

Because to calculate **real, defensible percentages**, we would need:

- **A clear list of indicators** per recommendation
- **Actual progress data** for each country
- **Weighting rules** (equal weight? priority-based?)
- **A regional aggregation method** (mean, median, adjusted scores)

Without those inputs, any number would be artificial.

Final Conclusion – Regional Implementation of Veterinary Services Recommendations

Key Messages:

*“While most recommendations are advancing, **sustainable financing** remains the main bottleneck. Targeted actions on Rec 5 are critical to ensure Veterinary Services in the region are fully resilient and operational.*

*A **real follow-up system with meaningful indicators and monitoring tools** is essential to measure impact, guide improvements, and ensure the long-term effectiveness of regional Veterinary Services.”*

شكرا

Thank you!

Address

Website



World Organisation
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