

WOAH in the Middle East: Empowering Veterinary Services, increasing visibility and modernising

WOAH

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE

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1. WOAH's mission, value of WOAH membership and WOAH funding
2. Strategy and future modernisation of our Organisation
3. Advocacy: supporting Delegates' engagement

WOAH's mission, value of WOAH membership and WOAH funding



WOAH today: a collective asset

- 183 Members, one global, science-based Organisation
- Transparency is at the heart of what we do
- Our standards and decisions are grounded in science
- We support and build the capacity of all Members
- Our system depends on the active engagement of our Members
- We operate in an increasingly complex global context, where health threats are becoming more prevalent

WOAH today: a global authority



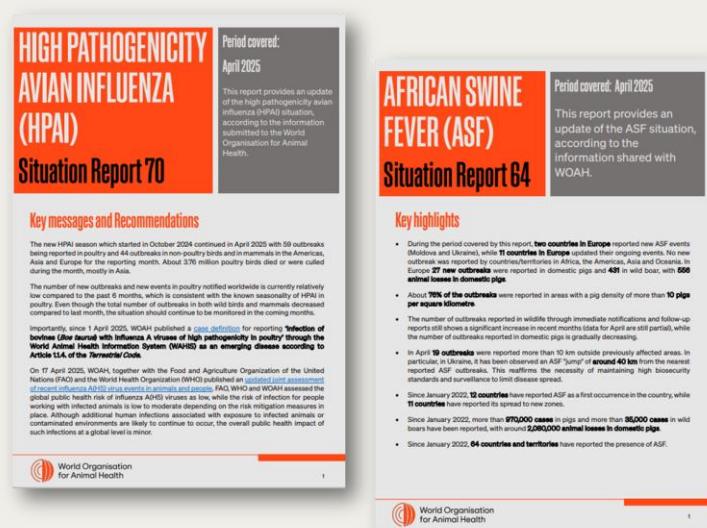
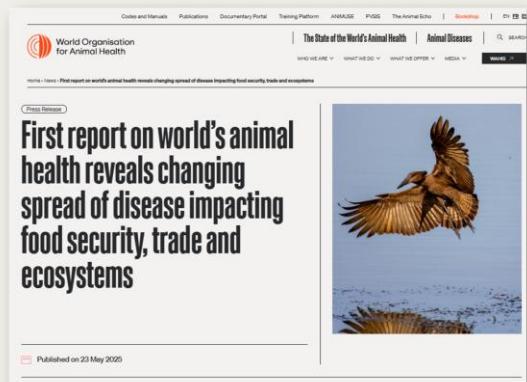


Why does
WOAH
matter?

Your
organisation,
your voice!

TRANSPARENCY

Animal Health
Information
management



**During 2025, we received from
Middle East Members**

Early warning module

**5 immediate notifications
5 follow-up reports**

Monitoring module

**43 six-monthly reports, 12
of which were for 2025
14 annual reports, 9 of which
were for 2024**

WOAH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Access
- Transparency
- Engagement in development and implementation



- 6 new and 72 revised chapters of the ***Terrestrial Code, Terrestrial Manual, Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual*** were adopted at 2025 General Session.
- WOAH Standards Navigation Tool
 - It was updated to include new and revised texts adopted at 2025 GS and published on 5 September 2025.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION & MAINTENANCE OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

392 Official status / endorsed programmes by WOAH

- 57% of Members have at least one recognition
 - 45% of Members of the Middle East Region (9 out of 20 Members)
However, 7 out of 9 only have AHS-free status
- Streamlining process initiated from September 2024
- Ongoing development of the Disease Status Management Platform



Home | **Annual Reconfirmations** | Applications | Self-declarations | English | Delegate of MemberX

Welcome to WOAH Disease Status Management Platform

The Disease Status Management Platform serves as a secure, centralised system for archiving, tracking, searching, and submitting all necessary documents related to the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status, and the self-declaration of disease freedom.



Annual reconfirmations of officially recognised disease status/endorsed control programmes

[See all](#)



Applications for official recognition of disease status/endorsement of control programmes

Under construction...



Self-declarations

Under construction...

CAPACITY BUILDING: PVS AND TRAINING SYSTEM (2023-2025) as of 20 Nov 2025

PVS Pathway Engagement

127

(10 in ME)

PVS Activities Conducted

36%

(16% in ME)

Overall Public PVS Reports

6/12 eligible

(50%)

Members in ME responded in
the First PVS Self-Assessment
Annual Report

Training System

3.5k+

Users enrolled

200+

Experts involved in
capacity building
initiatives

40+

Collaborations and
Partnerships

50+

eModules available and
in development

\$5 million+

invested by WOAH in Members for
capacity building of the Animal Health
Services since 2021

\$885 million+

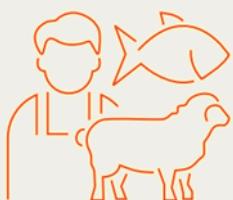
invested directly in 74 Members from the
Pandemic Fund and monitoring PVS
indicators

\$2.4 billion+

mobilised additionally for investment in
Pandemic Preparedness & Response
through the Pandemic Fund

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Development and support in the implementation of global strategies



Disease Eradication

For reasons linked to animal and human health, controlling animal diseases is one of WOAH's key objectives. Additional objectives are to preserve the subsistence of certain populations, to reduce poverty, and to support the economy and protect international trade.



Aquatic animals

Aquatic animals play a key role in achieving a more prosperous and secure world, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



One Health

The "One Health" approach summarises a concept that has been known for more than a century; that human, animal and plant health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist. We envisage and implement it as a collaborative, whole of society, whole of government approach to understanding, anticipating and addressing risks to global health.



Animal Welfare

Animal welfare is a complex and multi-faceted subject with scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, social, religious and political dimensions. It is attracting growing interest from civil society and is one of the priorities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).



Biological threat reduction



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.



Antimicrobial resistance

Imagine a world where infections and diseases in humans, animals and plants are impossible to treat. This worst-case scenario could become a reality as bacteria, viruses and parasites develop resistance to the drugs we use to fight them. Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, has become one of the most pressing health issues of our time. Solutions exist and everyone has a role to play in the fight against this global threat.



Veterinary Services

TRAINING
**WOAH Disease
Notification - WAHIS**



Camels and Equines

WOAH in the Middle East



FROM 27/04/2025 TO 30/04/2025
Joint Workshop of the G7-TADs Middle East for...
RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA



Veterinary education

AQMENET
**Aquaculture Middle East
Network**

REGIONAL ONE HEALTH WORKSHOP
**Strengthening One
Health Implementation
through the Joint Plan of
Action**



Animal Welfare

SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE

More than **800** experts worldwide

270 Reference Laboratories covering **109** diseases
or topics in **39** countries

80 Collaborating Centres in **33** countries

**4 Collaborating Centres and 3 Reference
Laboratories in the Middle East**

Benefits of WOAH's membership for Middle East Members

- Safer trade and stronger market access
- A trusted global transparency system for early warning and decision making
- Guidance, expertise and regional networks for disease control
- Direct, accessible support to Members through the RR/SRR
- Global reference for Veterinary Services
- A secure platform for Members to exchange information, needs and challenges
- Access to a technical networking

How is WOAH funded?

Statutory contributions are the only source of **sustainable and equitable funding**, but



30%
provided by only
16 Members in Category 1

How is WOAH funded?

Statutory contributions are then complemented by **Voluntary contributions**



130

Grants supporting different activities



The World Fund



A diverse collective of **Members** and organisations → continuously invested in the **World Fund**

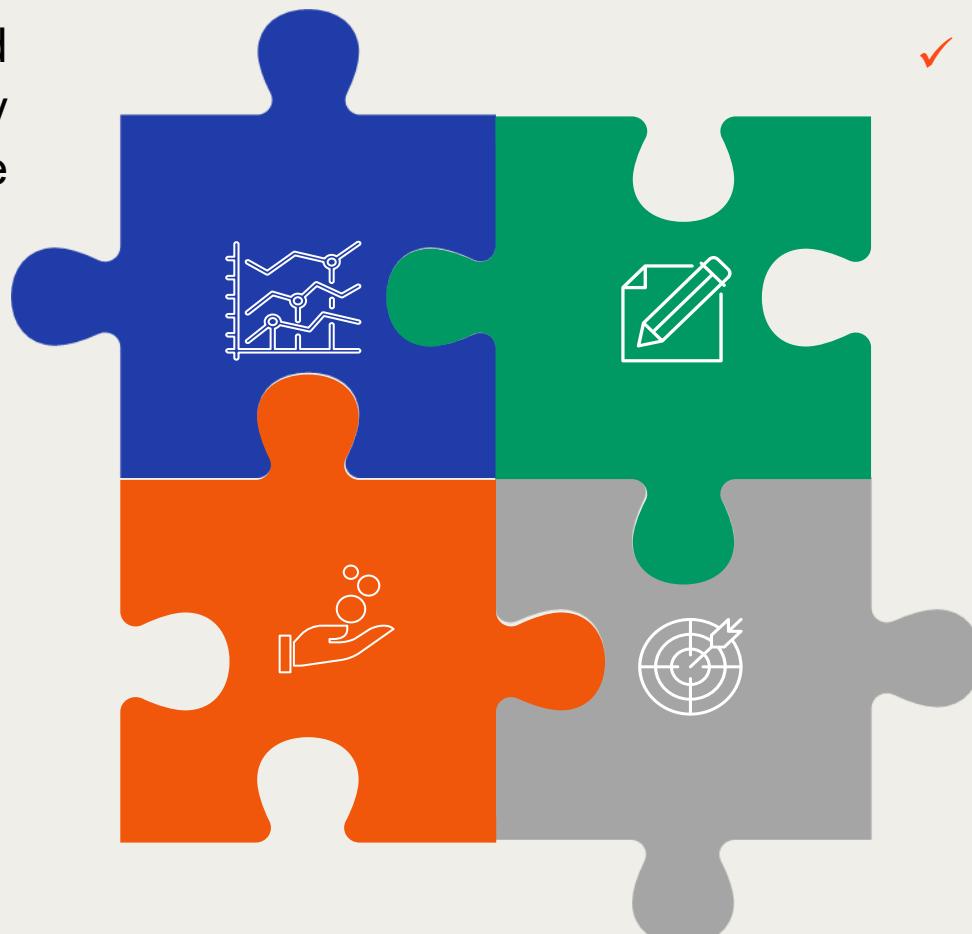


Current contributions from the **Middle East** to World Fund → inexistent

How to partner with WOAH ?

Statutory contributions:

- ✓ ↑ to 295,025 EUR (Cat. 1)
- ✓ To empower WOAH and ensure that it is sufficiently resourced to fulfil its mandate and service its Members.



Voluntary contributions:

Fund specific projects aligned with regional goals

Extraordinary contributions:

- ✓ 300k or 500k EUR for 2024
- ✓ concerned Members shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question

Advocacy & Engagement:

- ✓ Engage with ministries & stakeholders
- ✓ Articulate the benefits of WOAH investment
- ✓ Strengthen collective efforts

Strategy and future modernisation of our Organisation



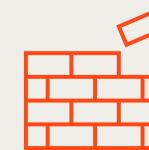
8th Strategic Plan



A pathway for WOAH to **support Members** navigate the animal health landscape and **respond to today's global challenges**.



A **shared vision and framework for action** for 2027-2031, **co-constructed** with Members, staff and other stakeholders.



Developed at **an ideal time**: alongside the GRC and building on 100 years of coordination, collaboration and collective commitment to animal health and welfare.



Provides **overarching strategic directions** to be translated into global and regional roadmaps/action plans.



Developed following a **phased approach**, involving Members each step of the way.



Includes a **monitoring framework** and **estimated cost** to effectively manage its implementation



Broad strategic directions (three orientations and four enablers) presented at the 2025 General Session.

8th Strategic Plan

Our mission: improve animal health globally, thereby ensuring a better future for all.

Our Vision: affirm our leadership and the critical role of animal health and welfare in addressing global challenges; empower national Veterinary Services and networks; lead WOAH towards agility, innovation and inclusivity – guided by principles of scientific excellence, good governance & transparency, innovation, solidarity & collaboration.

Strategic orientation one:
Develop global standards, adaptable and applicable to all Members.

Strategic orientation two:
Empower Members towards robust animal health and welfare systems and veterinary public health.

Strategic orientation three:
Position animal health as central to tackling global challenges.

Enabler One: Governance and partnerships for sustainability

Enabler Two: Leadership in animal health data

Enabler Three: People at the centre of WOAH

Enabler Four: Performance and accountability

Orientations specific objectives

Develop global standards, adaptable and applicable to all Members:

1. Reinforce the inclusion of Members in the standard-setting process and enhance our understanding of barriers to implementation
2. Continue to reinforce the scientific base of expertise.
3. Promote implementation through capacity-building, advocacy and mediation support.

Empower Members towards robust animal health and welfare systems and veterinary public health:

1. Empower Members to reinforce their animal health systems and access funding.
2. Facilitate Members' access to knowledge and foster collaboration.
3. Reinforce preparedness and crisis management capacity.

Position animal health as central to tackling global challenges:

1. Elevate animal health and welfare as a global priority in tackling global challenges, through targeted advocacy with decision-makers and strategic communication.
2. Support Members in communicating on priority challenges to have an impact on stakeholders and improve animal health and welfare worldwide.



Enablers specific objectives

Governance and partnerships for sustainability:

1. Support the work of the GRC and implement the World Assembly's decisions on updates to WOAH's institutional, technical and financial governance
2. Strengthen WOAH's resource mobilisation for long-term sustainability.
3. Strengthen strategic partnerships.



Governance Review Committee (GRC)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Work Programme of the WOAH Governance Review Committee and Initial Adjustments to Support Revisions to the WOAH Basic Texts

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 recommended that WOAH Members recognise the importance of a robust legal framework and the need to revise its Basic Texts to secure the organisation's ability to deliver its mandate efficiently, effectively, and sustainably into the future.
2. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 also decided that the Director General would establish a dedicated group on governance to carry out further work to revise the WOAH Basic Texts.
3. The Director General, in collaboration with the Council, developed the Terms of Reference of the dedicated group of governance which provided, *inter alia*, that the group would operate under the title "Governance Review Committee" and would serve in an advisory, consensus-building capacity to make recommendations to the Assembly on revisions to the Basic Texts.
4. The Governance Review Committee was established by the Director General in collaboration with the Council, composed of sixteen (16) WOAH Members inclusive of the WOAH Membership as identified by the five (5) Regional Commissions.
5. Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya, Lebanon, Norway, People's Republic of China, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Tunisia were nominated to the Governance Review Committee.
6. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 further recognised the 'Report on the analysis and evaluation of the legal framework and the institutional, technical and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health' including the recommendations as the basis for further work to revise the Basic Texts.
7. The Assembly in Resolution No. 12 of 2024 further decided that the Governance Review Committee would report to the 92nd General Session of the Assembly (2025) with the objective of providing a holistic work programme of multi-year activities and any initial recommendations (as appropriate) to support revisions to the Basic Texts, and
8. The work programme and initial recommendations on adjustments to WOAH's governance of the Governance Review Committee were validated by the Council and presented to the Assembly in document 92GS Adm-06.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOGNISES

1. The importance of the work of the Governance Review Committee for the future of the Organisation and looks forward to the outcomes of the Governance Review Committee's work throughout its term.

92GS/Adopted Resolutions

8

**INSTITUTIONAL
GOVERNANCE**

**TECHNICAL
GOVERNANCE**

**FINANCIAL
GOVERNANCE**

Enablers specific objectives

Governance and partnerships for sustainability:

1. Support the work of the GRC and implement the World Assembly's decisions on updates to WOAH's institutional, technical and financial governance
2. Strengthen WOAH's resource mobilisation for long-term sustainability.
3. Strengthen strategic partnerships.

Leadership in animal health data:

1. Provide Members and other stakeholders with the data, analysis and insights they need to take evidence-based decisions on animal health and welfare.
2. Strengthen WOAH data backend systems and policies.

People at the centre of WOAH:

1. Lead by example, promoting solidarity and fairness, and fostering an environment that encourages motivation and purpose.

Performance and accountability:

1. Foster a culture of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL).
2. Formalise internal processes to enhance quality, accountability and transparency.

In short: a plan to respond to today's challenges

- We operate in an environment of global challenges: (re)emerging diseases, biothreats, AMR, rising inequalities, geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, climate change and a veterinary profession under pressure, and more challenges.

Within this context, the 8th Strategic Plan:

- Calls **for reinforced collaboration and coordination** for deeper investment and impact.
- **Advocates for addressing disparities** between Members, recognising that no one can address animal health threats alone.
- **Demonstrates the value of investing** in animal health systems for its Members, society and the environment.
- Serves as a tool to **strategically mobilise resources** for WOAH and animal health & welfare more broadly.
- **Commits to continue improving**, innovating and making the best use of its networks of expertise, data and partnerships to guide and inform impactful decisions.

Your thoughts



As we build our future
together and face the
challenges together

Advocacy: supporting Members' engagement



Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges

Why animal health must be elevated?

- Critical for health security, food systems, trade and sustainable development
- Yet many Delegates struggle to reach high-level authorities and influence policy
- Investment in Veterinary Services and animal health system is a political imperative, not just a technical issue
- Delegates turnover and limited visibility can weaken national advocacy



Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges

How can WOAH support its Members?

- Global advocacy on your behalf in high-level political forums such as the G7, G20, COP and ministerial dialogues
- Strengthening Delegates' political influence through targeted advocacy tools and high-level policy briefs
- Support from Regional and Subregional Representations for national advocacy efforts



Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges

Insights from the Membership Value Project:

- The need for empowered Delegates with clearer pathways to influence national decision-makers
- Importance of regular two-way communication between WOAH and Members
- Shift towards Member-centric communication focusing on national priorities and constraints
- Recognition that advocacy must be tailored

Position Animal Health as central to tackling global challenges²

Building a clear Advocacy Strategy:

- WOAH is developing a consolidated approach (aligned to the 8th Strategic Plan) to advocacy and communication that integrates:
 - Policy High-level political advocacy
 - (High-level political advocacy at national, regional and global levels)
 - Financial advocacy
 - Technical advocacy
 - Public communication
- This is designed to raise the profile of animal health, secure investment in Veterinary Services and support Members' engagement at national and regional levels

Conclusion

- Animal health is central to global health, food security, trade and prosperity
- Strong Veterinary Services are essential and require political commitment
- WOAH offers a trusted, science-based platform and powerful global advocacy
- Members already benefit from standards, transparency, expertise and regional support
- These strengths must now be fully leveraged to address the challenges we face today
- Collective action and active Member engagement are key to building a more resilient future

Thank you!

شكراً لك!

Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran

Director General

Larnaca, Cyprus,

November 2025



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for Animal
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