

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

Republic of Lebanon



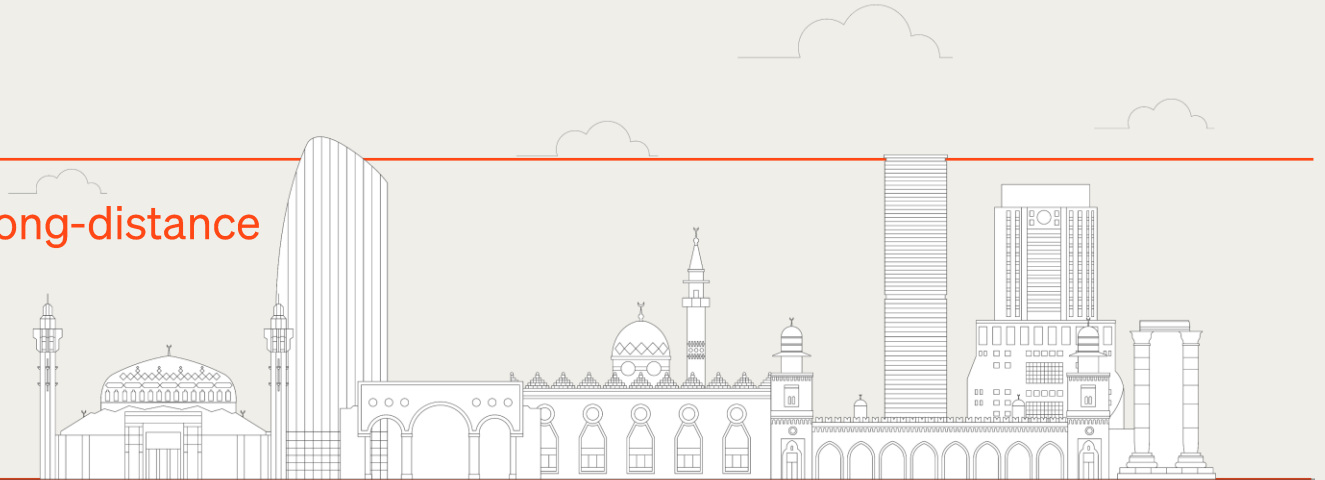
Dr. Sirius Hajj Ahmad

Head of Veterinary Public Health Department/Animal Welfare Focal Point

Ministry of Agriculture/Animal Resources Directorate

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance
transport by land and sea between
Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Overview of country livestock transport and trade

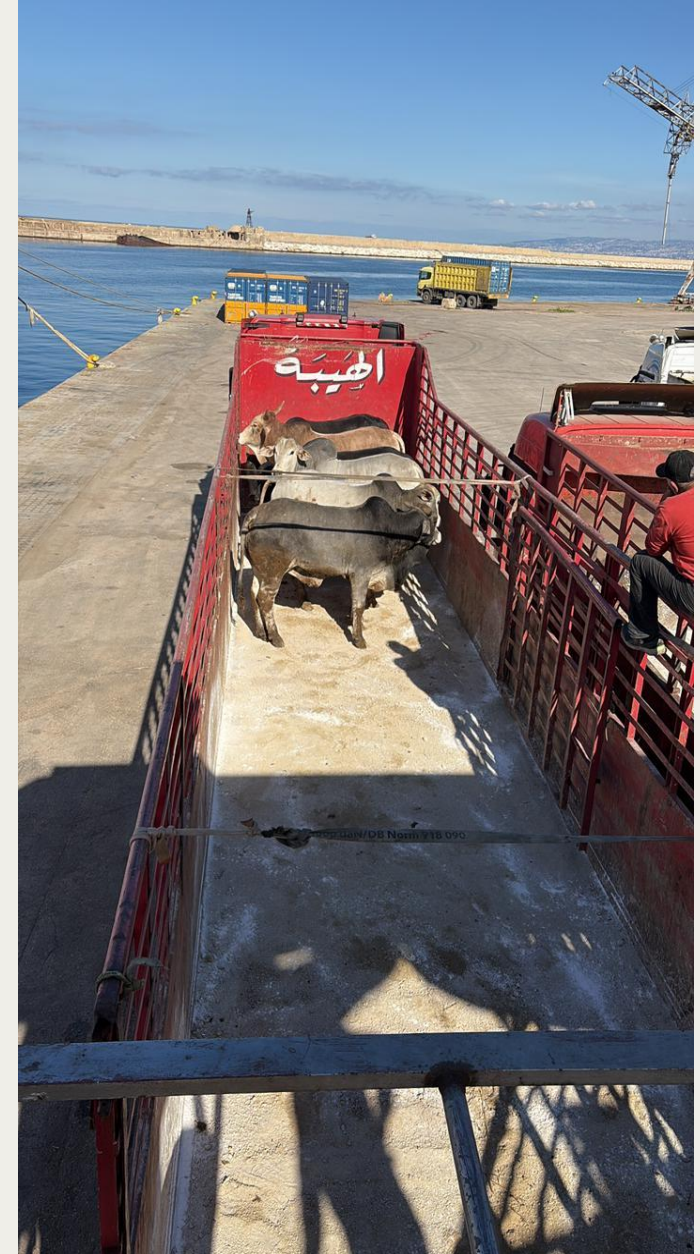
- Lebanon mainly imported livestock for slaughtering and breeding from Europe (EU Countries, Ukraine and Moldova) and South America (Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay) by sea.
- Number of imported animals and trends:

Number of imported animals to Lebanon			
	Breeding cattle	Slaughtering cattle	Sheep & Goat
2024	613	183,600	82,579
2025	3264	159,015	13,638

The Harbor of Beirut is the main border control post for livestock entrance to Lebanon.



The Republic of Lebanon is a country in Western Asia. It is located between Syria to the north and east and Palestine to the south. Lebanon is home to roughly six million people and covers an area of 10,452 square kilometers.





The Animal Resources Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture is a veterinary service and Competent Authority implementing standards on animal welfare due to law number 47 dated 2017.

01

Controlling import and export of animal-origin products and live animals.

02

Management of health certificates and maintaining veterinary health protocols and agreements between Lebanon and exporting countries.

03

Controlling border inspection posts including vehicle checks, animal health status, and upholding animal welfare standards.

04

Inspection including control on loading and discharging of live animals.



National legislation (Animal Welfare Law) number 47 dated 2017 was edited and established in cooperation with animal welfare organizations local and international and of course according to WOAH standards and recommendations.

More than 15 decrees and decisions should be issued according to the Lebanese animal welfare law number 47 covering all aspects of animal welfare issues including transportation, transport of animals, standards for facilities, containers, and vehicles for the transport of animals.



National animal welfare standards

In Lebanon, standards for Animal handlers, managers of facilities, business operators are according to the Animal Welfare Law 47 issued in 2017 where it's aligned with WOAH standards.



Implementation of the standards

- In general, from 2017 and before the veterinary services started to implement animal welfare standards within daily duty. From the date of this law, many things were changed and improved.
- Veterinary has protocols updated to comply with animal welfare standards.
- Loading and discharging of live animals at the port of Beirut were improved, and veterinary inspections were enhanced by veterinarians at the border inspection post (VIP).
- Veterinary health certificate (VHC) and permissions are verified.
- Loading and Discharging start only after the inspections and are checked by the veterinarians at the Border Inspection post.

Inspection happens in 3 phases:

1

Prior inspections/documentary checks (certificates according to protocols signed between Lebanon and exporting countries)

2

Physical checks (animal health status, vessel conditions, transportation condition of the animals if they are according to the animal welfare national and international law.

3

Sampling Blood samples are randomly drawn and sent to laboratories for animal disease testing purposes. In case of non-compliance, the veterinary inspectors give a remark to the shipment owner, and a written complaint and report are sent to the central administration for follow-up. And the central administration can issue a recommendation to stop the vessel and stop the merchant from exporting if the behaviour doesn't change.



Specific blood tests are performed depending on the exporting country, for example (South America: blue tongue, brucella, and FMD) (Europe: blue tongue and brucella)
As Lebanon trying to comply with animal welfare and not affect animals, all livestock case inspection takes time, the animals can be discharged at quarantine centers of importers based on written formal consent and legal documents from the ship owner that no action of any sort (selling, slaughtering, etc) will be taken until the results are issued and shipment is cleared by the veterinary inspectors.



Cross-border transport of animals

- Lebanon was planning on a big project of drafting new legislation with international standards and requirements for transport trucks for livestock but is currently suspended as it is costly and the Lebanese government is seeking investors it should be done in a Public-Private partnership.
- Complying with the WOAHP Live Animal Regulations for land and sea, animal shipments, the provisions of CITES for shipments of CITES-listed species, and any additional requirements of the importing and exporting country.
- Using the most appropriate methods of transportation, loading, and discharging for the welfare and safety of animals. The details of the implementation of Article 5 in Law 47 shall be specified by an Order of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Providing the veterinary procedures in accordance with the WOAHP regulations at the time of import.
- Transporting without delay the animals that comply with the requirements of import from/to the establishments or transport facilities designed for accommodation or transportation.
- Veterinarians are constantly on hand at the port to receive any animal shipment. There will be no days off for the sake of animal welfare and safety.
- If there is a concern with the documentation (not original or incomplete), the Minister will be informed, and animals will be released to quarantine upon approval.
- The shipment livestock owner must submit a formal consent confirming that the livestock will be quarantined until the original copies and missing papers are received by express mail.
- If there is a problem with the shipment in general (tests, documentation, stops), a report will be made to the nation of origin, and the shipment will not be received or enter the country.

Conclusions

Since the issuing of the Animal Welfare Law, Lebanon is complying progressively with WOAHA AW guidelines, especially in issues related to:

- 1- “Killing for disease control purpose”, (Glanders, GF TADs – FMD & PPR)
- 2- Stray dog population control (In 2025 TNVR program started (partially) to reduce stray dog population in collaboration with Lebanese Veterinary Syndicate, Municipalities, and NGO's).
- 3- Animal welfare during long distance transport of animals by sea and by Air. Nevertheless, the implementation is sometime hindered by illegal interventions, lack of budget, lack of awareness of the private sector, training of the veterinary inspectors, etc.

Gaps and weaknesses:

- 1- Port of Beirut doesn't include a dedicated quarantine area for livestock.
- 2- All livestock transportation vehicles are owned and driven by third party companies which leads to lack of authority on these vehicles.
- 3- MOA is using importers' farms as the quarantine facilities until receiving the final results from laboratories (24 to 48 hours).

Thank you

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport
by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan



World Organisation
for Animal Health