

# Their health, our future

ACTIVITY REPORT

2019



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

**The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)** brings together 182 Member Countries, with a mandate to improve animal health and welfare throughout the world. It is the standard-setting organisation of reference for the World Trade Organization in matters of animal health. It guarantees the health safety of international trade in animals and their products. Moreover, it ensures transparency of the global animal disease situation, including those transmissible to humans, and publishes prevention and control methods for these diseases. It accompanies Veterinary Services and facilitates information sharing among experts. The OIE acts with the permanent support of 13 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and 312 Reference Centres.

The OIE thus shapes the global governance of animal health.

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global  
health  
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and informing  
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# Highlights 2016-2019

Events on the international Agenda: conferences on specific issues, Countries' involvement... Reviewing some highlights of the implementation of the OIE's 6th Strategic Plan.

**New York - September 2016**

## General Assembly of the United Nations

World leaders commit to the fight against antimicrobial resistance, in the presence of the Directors General of the OIE, WHO and FAO

**Ottawa - November 2017**

## 2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction

300+ participants meet to strengthen synergies between the health and security sectors

**Brussels - September 2018**

## Forum on PPR

45 countries reaffirm their political will to eradicate Peste des petits ruminants from the world

**Buenos Aires - July 2018**

## G20

The Agriculture Ministers of the G20 countries welcome the creation of the Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards to ensure fair security rules for the international trade of live animals and their products

**Berlin - January 2019**

## Green Week Ministerial Forum

74 Ministers of Agriculture support the upgrading of OIE data systems to improve animal disease management

**Santiago de Chile - April 2019**

## 4th OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health

90 countries commit to the sustainable growth of aquaculture

# The OIE is ready to meet tomorrow's health challenges

**T**he guiding principles of my mandate have been to structure our actions, to modernise our programmes and to renew our procedures so that they become more transparent. Since 2016, I have been committed to engaging the OIE's teams, our Members, our partners and our experts throughout the world to strengthen our collaborations at every level.

We see it every day: our health systems are being confronted by new health challenges. Climate change, the increase in global population and technological progress are all challenges to overcome as well as opportunities to evolve. We must constantly examine the ways in which animal health systems can contribute towards building a common response to these issues.

## Collaborating for better global health governance

*“The OIE guides Veterinary Services towards better resilience”*

The COVID-19 pandemic reminds us that cross-sectoral collaboration, in line with the “One Health” approach, and the sharing of expertise are more essential than ever. By encouraging them, we will be better able to anticipate and deal with these new threats. Through its mission to set standards, to inform, and to build capacity, the OIE contributes to the emergence of essential global governance in animal health, anchored in science.

Since our actions are intended, above all, to support our Members, I wish to give them the floor in this review.

This report reflects our collective achievements in 2019, but also since the launch of the 6th Strategic Plan in 2016.

By building on the structural work undertaken in recent years, the OIE is ready to support Veterinary Services in coping with change. This report of our activities outlines the prospects for a future envisaged together and the objectives that we set for the years to come. ◀

**Dr Monique Éloit**  
OIE Director General




## Our network



# The OIE in figures

## In 2019...

### Our resolutions



34

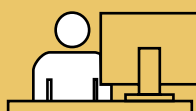
Standards developed  
or updated



15

official disease status and  
disease control programmes  
recognised in 9 countries

### Our reach



1.1 M

users of the WAHIS  
platform



### Our activities



5

worldwide  
or regional  
conferences  
organised



50+

missions  
organised  
in Member  
Countries



23

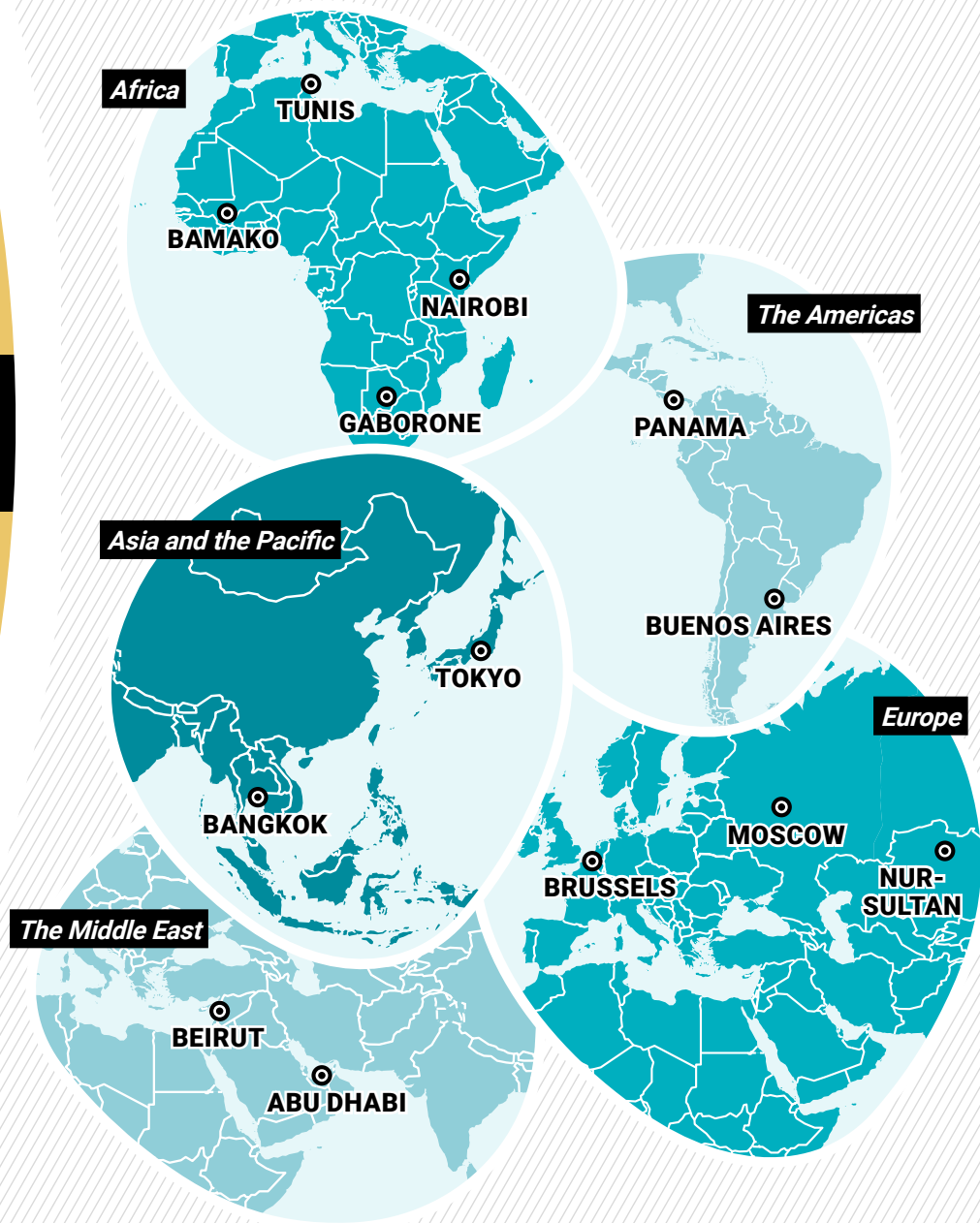
expert group meetings



1,300+

people trained

# 13 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations



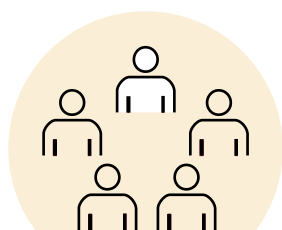
In 2019...

## THE NETWORK EXPANDS IN ABU DHABI

2019 saw the inauguration of a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation, the 13th in the world. Through its office in Abu Dhabi, the OIE intends to strengthen its network in the Middle East, in particular with the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates) and Yemen. As a result of this presence, the OIE aims to collaborate more closely with the region's Veterinary Services and respond more effectively to its problems in controlling transboundary diseases, notably zoonoses, and animal welfare, particularly in the commercial context.

# Animal health, at the heart of global challenges

In the face of demographic challenges, increased international trade and the impacts of climate change, animal health is more fundamental than ever to the development and well-being of human populations around the world. Fully aware of these challenges, the OIE supports the Veterinary Services of its Members so that they can address them more effectively.



Nearly  
**1/5th**  
of the world's population  
is involved in livestock  
production or the processing  
and marketing of food  
of animal origin.

**A**nimal health plays a leading role in maintaining global health, socio-economic and environmental balances. To safeguard it, the OIE works hand in hand with the Veterinary Services of its 182 Members, helping to make our relationship with the animal world a source of sustainable development.

By building on the structural work completed within the framework of the 6th Strategic Plan, the Organisation aims to better respond to the global challenges of the coming decade. Many of these initiatives are already fully aligned with several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. Now, the Organisation is redoubling its efforts to restructure and improve the global governance of animal health and welfare.

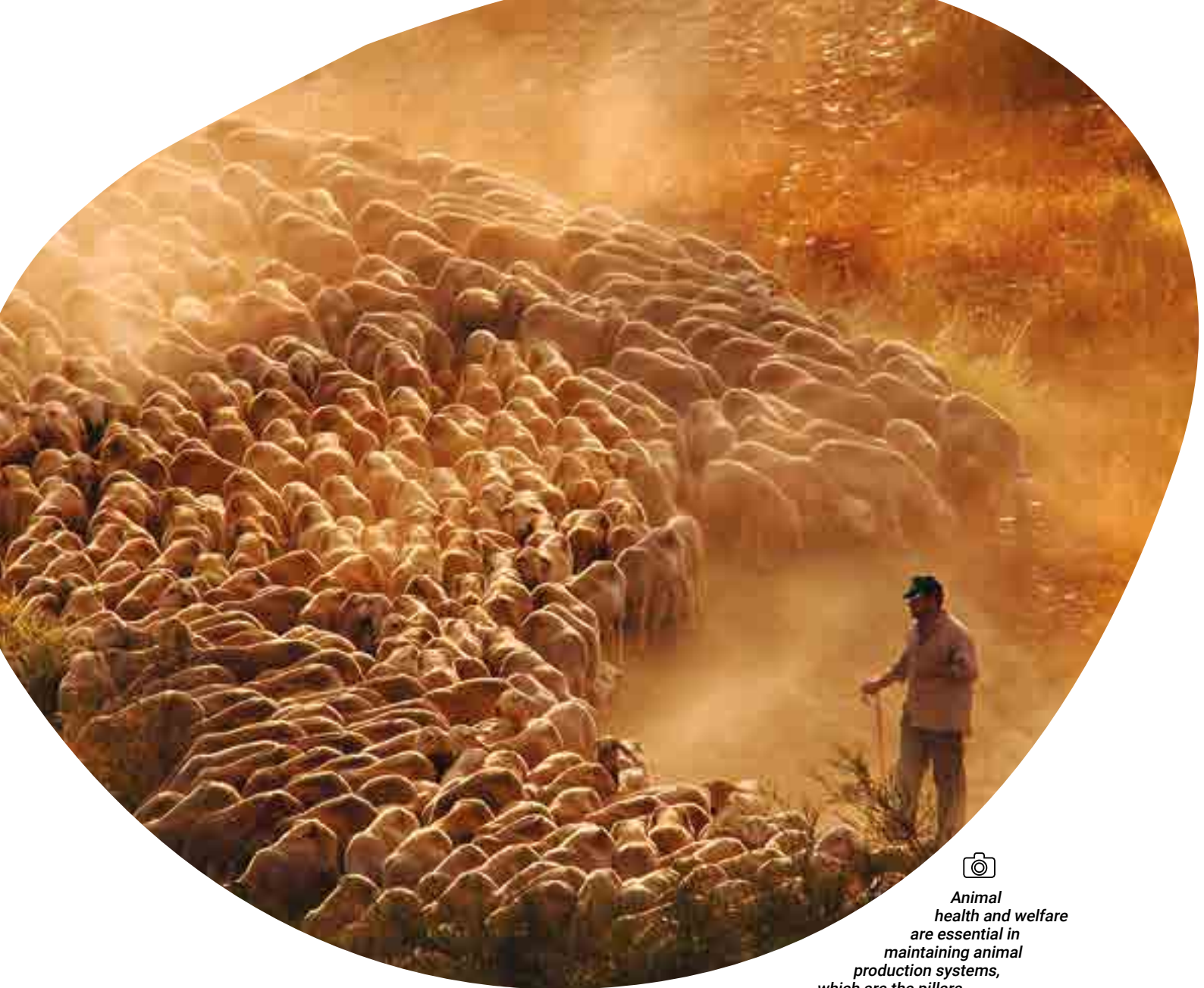
## Animals as drivers of human development

Because we interact with animals daily, both domestic and wild, their health concerns us from every perspective. Human health, food security, prosperity and respect for the environment are all inextricably linked to our worldwide governance of animals, a governance that the OIE has been guiding for nearly 100 years.

## Safeguarding human health in a globalised world

Many established human infectious diseases originate in animals, and, in the case of vector-borne diseases, for example, climate change is having a considerable impact on their spread. In addition, the majority of new infectious agents that emerge in humans have





***Animal health and welfare are essential in maintaining animal production systems, which are the pillars of global food security.***

an animal source. Among these diseases, rabies continues to kill nearly 59,000 people a year, mostly children.

The growing world population and increasing trade promote ideal conditions for disease transmission. To ensure health security in this era of globalisation, the OIE has set out a regulatory framework by establishing international standards, recognised by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Without impeding the smooth flow of trade, these standards play a major preventive role in protecting the health and welfare of animals, and thus of humans. From 2020, the gradual establishment of an Observatory of Standards will enable the OIE to provide more effective support to Members in the challenges they meet with regard to OIE Standards implementation.

### **Food security and livelihoods: beyond health impacts**

Not all animal diseases pose a direct risk to humans, but they may still have significant socio-economic

impacts. For these people, animal health is not only a health issue: their jobs and livelihoods depend on it.


Moreover, since the global demand for animal protein continues to increase, the world's food security remains heavily dependent on animal health. Meeting this growing need, and pursuing the Sustainable Development Goal 2, "Zero hunger", means reinforcing animal production and health systems—a mission that the OIE is taking on by strengthening the capacities of its Members' national Veterinary Services.

### **Towards more sustainable models**

As society becomes increasingly aware of the challenges posed by climate change, now and in the future, it has high expectations for sustainable animal production systems that respect both the environment and animal welfare. ►►

► The need to feed a growing number of people, and to feed them better, must be combined with the urgent requirement to protect our terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Here, too, animal health and production systems have a key role to play, assisted by guidance from the OIE. Optimising and harmonising the processes of Veterinary Services, facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue and encouraging integrated approaches allows us to build more effective, sustainable and resilient models.



 *The OIE assists Veterinary Services to be better prepared to respond to animal health challenges of the future.*

## More effective, sustainable and resilient animal health systems

The OIE's mandate is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide. At a time when numerous changes are disrupting our communities and ways of life,

the OIE continues to adapt its work to the evolving challenges of veterinary public health, to provide more effective support to Veterinary Services through these changes.

### Testimonial

## “Facing change with unity and purpose”



**Dr Mark Schipp**  
OIE President  
OIE national Delegate  
Chief Veterinary Officer

AUSTRALIA

Under the 6th Strategic Plan, the OIE has achieved so much, including the development of the new OIE-WAHIS platform, the improvement of Veterinary Services' capability worldwide, and the establishment of a tripartite

agreement on antimicrobial resistance with FAO and WHO.

As we prepare to implement the 7th Strategic Plan, the OIE must remain agile and embrace emerging issues in order to

build on these advances, for the benefit of all Members. It is important that external parties outside the direct OIE sphere understand its vision, mission and strategic objectives and how they contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

In coming years, the OIE will need to be flexible enough to tackle shifts and major issues as they arise, while maintaining clear vision and implementation of its mandate. Key emerging issues relevant to the global animal sector, such as changing societal expectations, new technologies, trade regulation, national capacity and cross-sectoral issues, will need to be addressed

in a coordinated manner that allows Member Countries to unite and affect positive change in areas of global importance.

I personally will have a strong focus on the utilisation, sharing and interpretation of international animal health data. This is one of the key themes of the 7th Strategic Plan and holds huge potential to improve insights and the effectiveness of policy interventions. In Australia, we are always seeking opportunities to improve data harmonisation and accessibility across industry, jurisdictional and federal levels. International data governance guidelines will support all countries to achieve this aim.

## Perspectives

### Continuing support for Veterinary Services

As essential links to animal health and welfare, national Veterinary Services are still not well understood by policy-makers, remaining under-funded and under-represented in the international agenda. The OIE takes their specific needs into account, principally through the PVS Pathway, which identifies the strengths and weaknesses of these Services and enables the Organisation to propose tailored solutions. Moreover, the OIE strengthens the capacities and resources of national Veterinary Services through specialised training and by creating tools for advocacy and raising awareness.

### Scientific expertise that draws on other disciplines

Today's challenges confronting animal health professionals are complex and their components are constantly changing. For example, climate change affects livestock and food production systems as well as the distribution and prevalence of vector-borne diseases. The responses to these complex challenges cannot be considered in isolation, as pertaining to a single sector or country. Collaboration, coordination, communication and concerted action are required across the different sectors, calling for an interdisciplinary and cross-sector approach. The support given by the OIE to its Members' Veterinary Services is based on rigorous, independent, scientific expertise that increasingly incorporates the intersectoral nature of global challenges.

The veterinary expertise mobilised is enriched with social, economic, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental knowledge, while maintaining a "One Health" approach that considers animal, human and ecosystem health as a public good. Through this integrated approach, the OIE places animal health at the heart of such global challenges and provides national Veterinary Services with the knowledge and support they need to raise awareness and mobilise decision-makers and actors in the field.

### Towards better governance of global animal health

Since 2016, the Organisation has strengthened its network of partners and taken international cooperation and multilateralism as guidelines for its interventions. The OIE prefers targeted partnerships for impact. The Organisation's long-standing Tripartite

## MORE UP-TO-DATE MONITORING AND DATA MANAGEMENT TOOLS

**In 2016, to support Veterinary Services more effectively, the OIE launched the modernisation of its monitoring and data management tools, as well as its internal processes. These data are now more readily accessible, for example, to better quantify and characterise the use of antimicrobials in animals. From 2020, the OIE will consider cross-referencing its data with those of other partner organisations, as a priority issue. Recognising the considerable impact that new technologies could have on its work, the OIE aims to continue and intensify its digital and technological transformation. The integration of biotechnology into food systems, the use of "Big Data", artificial intelligence or the blockchain in data management, are all future prospects that the OIE wants to explore in the coming years.**

Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) develops global action plans, for example, on combatting antimicrobial resistance. This collaboration has been strengthened by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to include new subjects of common interest. Today, the OIE's partnership choices are diversifying and opening up to other sectors with complementary expertise.

The global data platform offered by its World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) makes the OIE an essential bridge between field actors and policy-makers. It provides real-time information on the worldwide animal health situation. From 2020, on completion of its upgrade, data accuracy and analysis will be refined to forge a vital tool for good governance of animal health and to enhance the relevance of veterinary data provided to decision-makers. ◀

# The OIE responds to

Human health, food security, biodiversity... In addition to improving animal health and welfare, Veterinary Services contribute to our society in many other ways. The OIE accompanies their efforts every day.



**People's livelihoods**

THEME

## Eradicating peste des petits ruminants

The spread of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) has accelerated alarmingly over the last 15 years. It threatens the food security and livelihoods of 300 million rural families around the world, many of which are small-scale farmers and nomadic pastoralists. Global annual losses due to this disease are estimated at between \$1.4 billion and \$2.1 billion. The OIE is taking action to eradicate PPR by 2030, as part of the OIE/FAO Global Strategy.



**6 PVS**  
evaluation  
missions  
focused  
on PPR

In  
**2019**



**10.1 M**  
doses of vaccine  
delivered through  
the OIE Vaccine Bank



**7 training**  
courses  
held regionally  
for Veterinary  
Services

*Funding: European Union, France,  
Italy, United Kingdom,  
the World Bank*

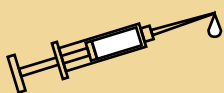


**Global health**

PROJECT

## Fighting rabies

The OIE project to control rabies in Namibia was launched in mid-2015, shortly after the launch of the National Disease Control Strategy. Initially intended to last for three years, the project was carried out in the Northern Communal Area, where 93% of the country's rabies cases were concentrated. Its goal: to increase the number of dogs vaccinated and raise awareness among the population to eliminate this disease, which still causes so many human deaths. The pilot phase, carried out in the Oshana region in 2016, was extended to seven neighbouring administrative regions from 2017. The project was renewed in 2019 for a further three years. The lessons learned will contribute to better control rabies in southern Africa.



**228,000+**  
dogs vaccinated  
through the OIE Vaccine  
Bank deliveries

Between  
**2016 and 2019**



**539**  
animal health  
professionals  
trained in vaccination



**67,300+**  
children  
taught about  
rabies in  
242 schools

*Funding: Germany*

**Our involvement in 3 examples**

# global challenges



## Access to education

### THEME

## Veterinary Services training

The work of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) is essential to animal health, particularly in countries where there are not enough veterinarians and they are not evenly distributed throughout the country. The accessibility and quality of their training, as well as the level of recognition of their status, vary from one country to another. The OIE works to improve the quality of Veterinary Services education throughout the world, especially the training of paraprofessionals. In this way, it also helps to provide job opportunities for the younger generations.



**4 projects** developed to train VPPs (3 concluded and 1 in progress)

**In 2019**

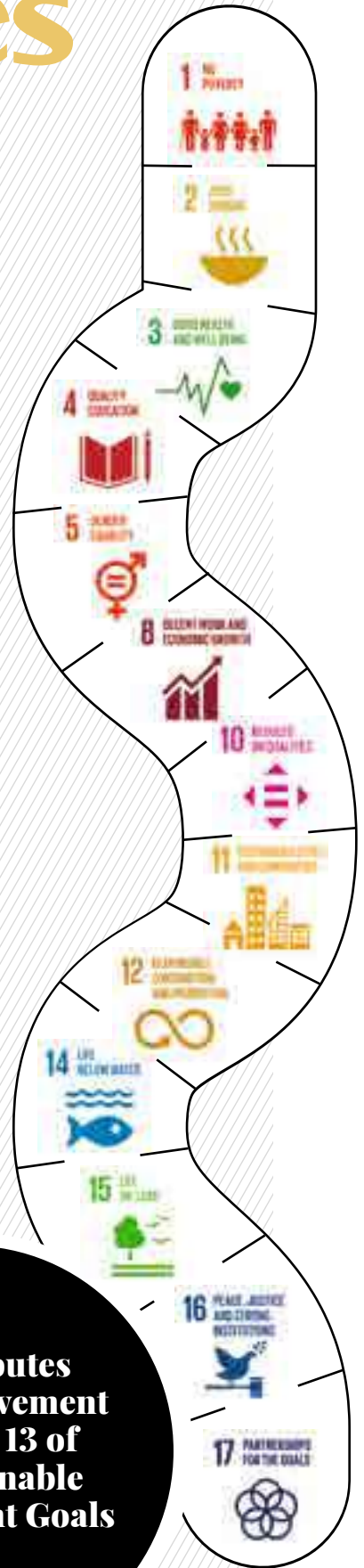


**10 twinning projects** between Veterinary Education Establishments in 2019

*Funding: Australia, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America, the World Bank*



The Expert Group on VPPs concluded its 3-year work cycle with the publication of guidelines for the education of VPPs



## Our action...

**Controlling global health risks**

**Communicating and informing with full transparency**

**Strengthening resilience in animal health systems**

**... contributes to the achievement of at least 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals**



# Controlling global health risks



*A large part of the world's population depends on agriculture and livestock to survive.*

Since 2016, within the framework of its 6th Strategic Plan, the OIE has restructured itself and has been able to renew its policy frameworks to carry out its mission of controlling animal health risks. Drawing on high-level expertise from many areas, the OIE sets international standards and global strategies, and subsequently oversees their implementation in the field.

**Better-structured  
intervention  
policies**

**Scientific  
excellence  
as the guiding  
principle**

**A strengthened  
international  
regulatory  
framework**

**G**lobalised trade, climate change or even antimicrobial resistance (AMR) challenge international health security. To achieve its mission of controlling animal health risks, the OIE guides its Members in the development of their national strategies and their implementation within their territories. The OIE is founded on robust scientific expertise to strengthen the international regulatory framework that is essential in maintaining the welfare and health security of communities and animals. To do this effectively, the OIE develops organised and coordinated global responses.

## Better structured intervention policies

In recent years, the OIE has formalised many global strategies, intended to guide governments in the design of their national animal health plans. These developments took place through a collaborative approach involving experts, Partner Organisations and OIE Members. The consistent goal of this initiative is to promote the adoption of these strategies at the regional and national level.

## Strategies to consolidate animal health systems

Between 2016 and 2019, the final recommendations of several global OIE conferences have resulted in the development of strategies on animal welfare and the control of antimicrobial resistance. Another area in which the OIE intensified its efforts in 2019 was aquatic animal health, since aquaculture is a rapidly expanding sector facing a high number of emerging diseases. In April 2019, the 4th Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, held in Santiago de Chile, paved the way for the development of a dedicated strategy, which will be launched in 2020.

On all these subjects, OIE Members have benefited from regional training to better define their specific needs and objectives and develop or renew their national policies and the implementation of their action plans.

## Targeting control of specific diseases

In 2019, the OIE continued to develop and implement global strategies on priority animal diseases: rabies, foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants. Their priority relates to their impact



*In 2020, the OIE will launch the first global strategy for aquatic animal health.*



## Testimonial

# “The OIE has guided our work on antimicrobial resistance”



**Dr Edilberto Brito**

Coordinator of the Primary Animal Production Safety Group of the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA). OIE national Focal Point – Animal Welfare

COLOMBIA

The OIE Strategy and the FAO–OIE–WHO Tripartite Agreement have guided our work on antimicrobial resistance in Colombia and encouraged synergies between our animal health sector and the human health, environmental and research sectors. Since 2017, we have been developing our

**national plan for antimicrobial resistance with the Ministry of Health, research centres and producer associations.**

In terms of prevention, our work is based on that of the OIE. In particular, we are collaborating with producer associations like PorkColombia, to encourage the prudent use of drugs. In 2019, a campaign targeted all stakeholders in the pig and avian sectors and a national seminar brought together all the leaders of large livestock companies (cattle, pigs and poultry) in the country to raise their awareness of good practices when using antimicrobials. In 2020, we plan to continue this task of raising awareness at the local and regional level, especially with producers and

veterinarians in the field. Likewise, we intend to continue monitoring antimicrobial resistance, which we have been doing for several years in dairy, pork and laying-hen operations.

**“We monitor livestock farm practices in the field”**

As for the collection of data on antimicrobial use in animals initiated by the OIE, that has also had a considerable

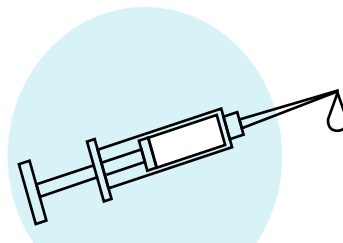
impact on our actions. Until then, we had very little information, especially in terms of monitoring and risk analysis. However, these data are essential to focus our activities and are now the basis for improving our programmes against antimicrobial resistance.

on human health or to their consequences on the economy and subsistence livelihoods of rural populations. The fight against these three diseases relies essentially on large-scale vaccination campaigns. The OIE provides support, mainly in enabling countries to access vaccine banks, whose mechanisms were revamped in 2018. In view of the shared challenges of combatting these diseases, all these global strategies are being developed jointly with the FAO, and, in the case of rabies, with WHO and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC).

Another way in which the OIE supports the advancement of these strategies is its strengthening of procedures for recognising health status in the absence of certain diseases. Issued for zones or entire countries, such status demonstrates

the implementation of effective control programmes and the application of sanitary measures in accordance with OIE Standards.

In 2019, the international health situation was also disrupted by the spread of a disease with devastating effects on the pig industry, smallholder farmers and some economic systems: African swine fever. Coordinated initiatives are crucial to stem the progression of the disease. Collaboration with our Partner Organisations, in particular the FAO, is essential for success in the fight against animal diseases.



In 2019, the OIE facilitated the delivery of

**13.4 M**

**doses of vaccines against rabies, foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants.**

**Scientific excellence as the guiding principle**

As a standard-setting organisation, the OIE's approach is based on facts and scientific evidence. This is crucial to ensure ►►

In 2019...

## A GLOBAL CONTROL INITIATIVE AGAINST AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Since 2018, 50 countries have reported the presence of this disease within their territory. Given its epidemiological severity and the absence of a vaccine against the disease, the OIE has initiated the development of a global initiative to control African swine fever. This initiative uses the GF-TADs mechanism (FAO-OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) to develop, improve and harmonise partnerships and coordination at the national, regional and global level. The objective is to control the disease, to strengthen countries' ability to prevent and prepare for it, and to minimise harmful effects on animal health and welfare, as well as on food security and international trade.

► the independence, objectivity and relevance of its Standards and recommendations. In addition to establishing rules, the OIE draws on a network of international experts who liaise with the animal health services of its Members. These specialists help them to anticipate and respond to problems specific to their circumstances.

### Surrounded by a high-performance network of experts

In recent years, all the procedures for selecting OIE experts have been revised to ensure greater transparency of the process and fair and equitable representation. It was in accordance with these renewed principles that members of the OIE Ad Hoc Expert Groups and Specialist Commissions, in charge of updating the normative texts and studying the applications for official recognition of disease status, were elected or appointed in 2018.

The 300 or so experts of the OIE Reference Centres are appointed with the same rigour. Drawn from the best research institutes and scientific consortiums, they play a key role. Their contributions are essential to the implementation of animal health programmes through their provision of technical expertise and their support to Members on diagnostic questions or more cross-cutting issues.

### Diverse areas of expertise for a comprehensive health approach

The Second OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum took place in April 2019, with the theme: "Animal transport: a shared responsibility". Members of the OIE, international

organisations, industry, non-governmental organisations and civil society took part, illustrating the need to share experiences when responding to challenges that involve economics and productivity but also cultural problems.

More and more, veterinary science is proving insufficient to meet the complex challenges of animal health by itself. This discipline must incorporate a more comprehensive approach, which takes into account socio-economic, environmental, security and legal considerations. Their inclusion is essential for the development of effective policies. That is why the OIE is increasingly opening up to new areas of collaboration that will enable us to understand these multifaceted issues by taking an inclusive approach.

## A strengthened international regulatory framework

Harnessing the synergy of all these areas of expertise is essential to developing high-quality international standards. These standards can then be written into the national legislation of countries to better coordinate their approach to the prevention and control of animal diseases and to enhance the safety of international trade.

### Ensuring that international standards remain relevant

The progress made in recent years in updating OIE Standards has largely concerned the so-called "horizontal" chapters. They have principally focused on the steps that countries should take in terms





***Rinderpest, the first animal disease to be eradicated, remains a model for the development of coordinated and effective global strategies.***

alongside 50 other international organisations. By sharing experiences, these institutions are working together towards more effective international regulation to respond to global challenges in the best possible way.

### **Strengthening the implementation of the Standards: the OIE Observatory**

In an initiative welcomed by G20 Agriculture Ministers in 2018, the establishment of an Observatory will provide a key advantage in optimising our standard-setting work. The pilot phase will begin from 2020. ▶▶

of preventing animal diseases, biosecurity and structuring animal health services, which are essential prerequisites for safe international trade.

In 2019, for example, the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Standard for “Animal health surveillance” was comprehensively updated. By providing up-to-date recommendations, this Standard will help countries design disease surveillance systems to control animal diseases more effectively and, where applicable, to demonstrate their absence. This is particularly important in the case of those diseases for which the OIE issues official recognition of disease status.

### **Supporting the implementation of the Standards**

OIE Standards are adopted by consensus, at the end of a consultative process with the Organisation’s Members. Nevertheless, their implementation can prove problematic for some Members for a variety of reasons: an inadequate national legislative framework, for example, or prioritisation of other issues. When a country fails to apply the Standards, the consequences are both sanitary and economic, since its access to international markets may be restricted by the application of biosecurity measures from its trading partners.

For this reason, the OIE is working to create an increasingly supportive environment for the implementation of its Standards, including within the framework of various partnerships. The OIE also takes part in the initiative coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

### **In 2019...**

## **SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AND DISEASE STRATEGIES**

**Since 2016, the OIE has been one of the organisations hosting the Scientific Secretariat of the International Research Consortium on Animal Health (IRC) of the Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses (STAR-IDAZ).**

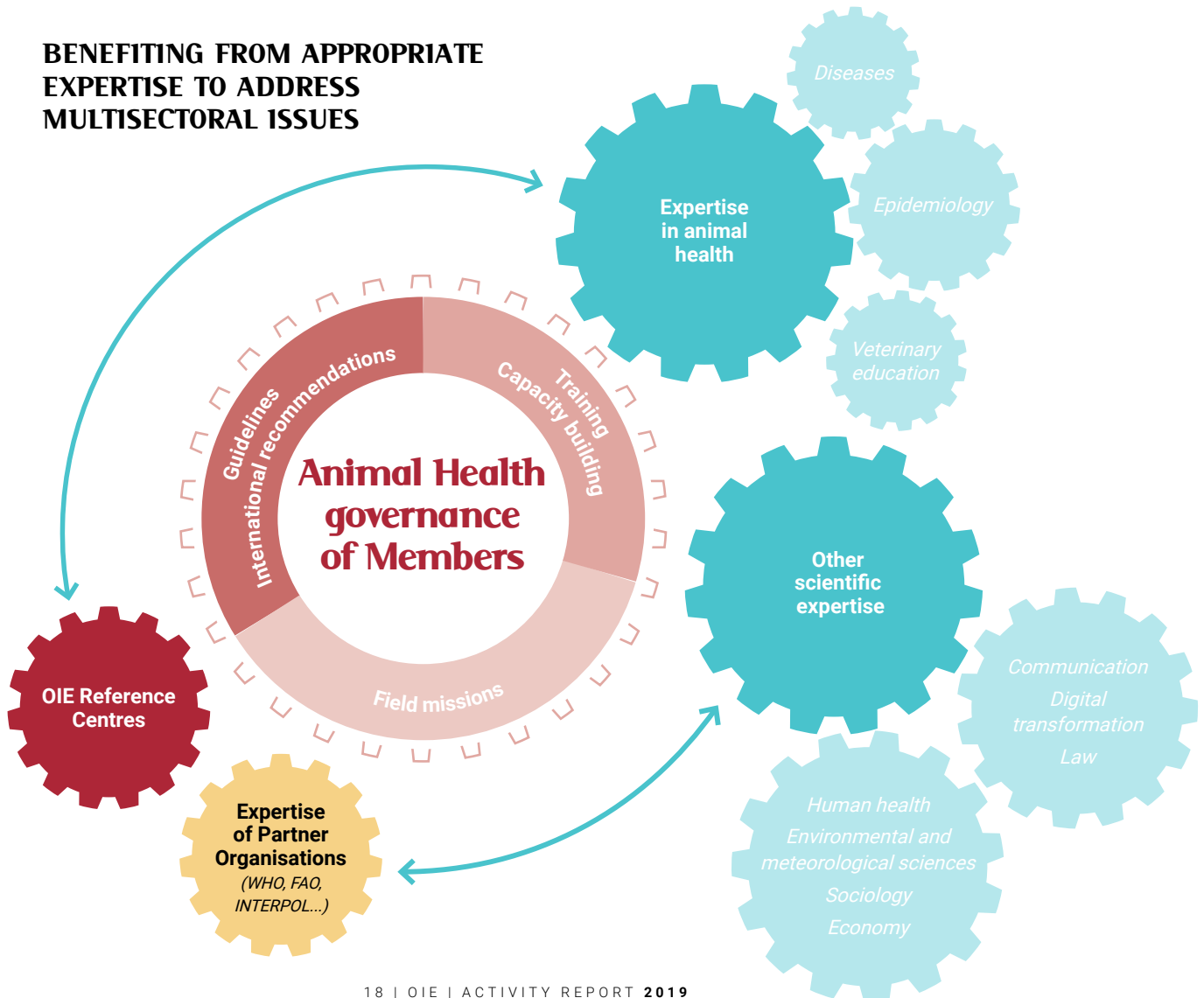
**This initiative encourages collaboration within the animal health sector by coordinating international research programmes. In 2019, five meetings of the regional STAR-IDAZ networks focused on mapping research activities and common priorities, as well as enhancing collaboration on animal health research in the regions. Roadmaps for research into the development of diagnostics, vaccines and disease control strategies were also finalised for African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, and helminthiasis.**



*The OIE draws upon a network of international experts who liaise with the animal health services of its Members.*

► By analysing the way in which Members use the Standards, this mechanism will enable a better understanding of the challenges that they face. The OIE will thus be in a better position to support them, either through support programmes or through its planned educational platform. The information collected will be just as valuable in guiding some of the standard-setting work and global strategies proposed by the OIE. Finally, these data will provide a solid basis to build a common language among Members, particularly in the area of international trade. ◀

**BENEFITING FROM APPROPRIATE EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS MULTISECTORAL ISSUES**



Interview

# “The OIE Observatory will facilitate trade negotiations”

Products from small ruminants such as meat and wool are of the utmost importance in Kazakhstan's export economy. OIE Standards aim to guarantee the health security of international trade. The OIE Observatory will increase transparency on their implementation.

## *How are OIE International Standards useful to your country?*

In Kazakhstan, complying with OIE International Standards is mandatory. We use them when trading internally or with international partners. During bilateral negotiations, we explain to our partners that complying with OIE Standards and implementing them is a prerequisite. In 2011, after hosting a Veterinary Legislation Identification mission in the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway, we adapted our national veterinary legislation according to OIE Standards. Later, when we improved our common veterinary legislation with the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, we advocated for the use of OIE recommendations at the regional level.

## *What difficulties do Veterinary Services in Kazakhstan face when it comes to implementing OIE Standards?*

Kazakhstan is a member of several regional unions. We develop common veterinary legislations on some topics. Yet these are not always harmonised among

***“The OIE Observatory will create a shared basis for dialogue with our trading partners”***



**Mrs Gulmira S. Isaeva**

*Vice-Minister of Agriculture*

**KAZAKHSTAN**

the different unions. There is still work to be done to align them with OIE Standards. We also have difficulties making the latest knowledge accessible to our governmental and private veterinary specialists, notably due to the language barrier faced by many of our experts. To address this issue, our Ministry offers great support to the development of the educational system. Finally, budget restrictions are another challenge. In the shorter term, we have decided to use the budget allocated to Veterinary Services to prioritise risk assessment on specific diseases, such as foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants.

## *How will the Observatory help you implement OIE Standards?*

Kazakhstan fully supports the development of the OIE Observatory, whose main role will be to continuously and systematically monitor and analyse Members' practices in the implementation of OIE Standards. In the future, trade negotiations will be made more efficient by sharing the same understanding of the game rules with our trading partners.

We also expect that the Observatory will help better understand capacity-building needs for countries that encounter challenges in introducing these Standards into their national legislations. Lastly, we hope that the Observatory will contribute to increasing transparency on implementation of OIE Standards and facilitating the dialogue between trading partners.



# Communicating and informing with full transparency



*Communication and transparency on the global animal health situation are essential for effective collaboration among countries.*

Transparency, quality and efficiency in exchanges of health information are essential for health and well-being for both animals and humans. The OIE continues to update and optimise its communication tools for all audiences and to network with animal health stakeholders to ensure that the information is circulated widely.

**Better  
access  
to animal health  
information**

**Networking  
with animal  
health  
stakeholders**



**WAHIS records alerts and follow-up information from more than 200 countries on nearly 120 animal diseases.**



**O**nly accurate and up-to-date knowledge of events in the field can effectively address disease prevention and control. In a changing context, in which complex issues combine activities from various sectors, increasing and diversifying the information flow makes it accessible to a range of audiences with varying levels of knowledge.

The information flow is an essential component in preventing the spread of animal diseases and in maintaining trust between countries, particularly in the context of trade or animal movements. This is what the OIE protects, in accordance with the principle of transparency.

## Better access to animal health information

For effective sanitary action, we must be able to rely on robust, validated epidemiological data, made available to all. The information, which is collected, verified and subsequently published by the OIE, enables national policy-makers and the international community to make well-informed decisions, based on facts.

### An upgraded animal health platform

A major achievement of the 6th Strategic Plan is the total remodelling of the platform hosting all the animal health data provided by countries. The first version of OIE-WAHIS will be launched in 2020. By enabling the analysis of disease events in light of other factors, and making it possible to cross-reference data with those of other platforms, OIE-WAHIS will become an indispensable tool for animal health data.

Succeeding the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), which had more than 1.2 million visitors in 2019, the new tool will now provide a higher-quality service: entering animal disease information will be simplified, the information provided

will be more complete, and non-veterinary data, in particular socio-economic and climate data, will be progressively included.

### New technologies serving animal health data management

New technologies offer unprecedented possibilities for Veterinary Services to access more targeted information. Using these technologies for the benefit of the international community represents a real opportunity to secure the effectiveness of animal health systems.

In this spirit, the OIE has worked in recent years to improve access to more detailed official animal health information that can be used by wider audiences. Since 2016, it has also launched the collection of data on antimicrobial use in animals and for the establishment of a genomic platform. At the same time, training was provided to encourage Veterinary

Services to progressively take ownership of these platforms for their optimal use.

### Effective communication with the widest possible audience

Since animal health concerns everyone, the OIE makes information available to as many people as possible. To this end, it has steadily updated a large part of its resources and ►►



**2,237**  
reports from 118 countries  
relating to 61 diseases  
published on WAHIS  
in 2019.



Interview

# OIE-WAHIS, for a deeper understanding of sanitary events”

To ensure OIE-WAHIS will address Members’ needs appropriately, the OIE has included them throughout the development of the platform. Jennifer Saurina’s team in Switzerland was directly involved every step of the way.

## *In what ways did your team contribute to the development of OIE-WAHIS?*

We are part of the strategic advisory committee and our notification experts are also part of the key user committee. Testing the system enables us to comment every step of the way and provide useful feedback on the tool. From the start of



**Dr Jennifer Saurina**

*International Affairs Advisor,  
Federal Food Safety and  
Veterinary Office (FSVO)  
of the Federal Department  
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OIE national Focal  
Point – animal disease  
notification*

SWITZERLAND

the development of OIE-WAHIS, what was very important to us was to have a platform that allows better extraction of data. We wanted to be able to use all the information available on the platform and to have better interoperability between OIE-WAHIS and other systems.

## *How are you using the information contained on WAHIS today?*

We upload information on the notification system and we use the alert device for our own early warning system. We collect information from other countries to have an overall live picture of the animal health situation worldwide. In the future, making data extraction available will be a key asset for research purposes. During a crisis, it could also help us gain better understanding of particular situations.

## *How will OIE-WAHIS help you improve animal health management in Switzerland?*

To tackle animal diseases, we need transparency and a transdisciplinary approach. Crossing veterinary data with meteorological or social data will help us determine influential factors on the dissemination of diseases. For instance, OIE-WAHIS will help monitor the spread of animal diseases and their potential link with movement of populations.



*The new OIE-WAHIS platform will provide reliable, high-quality epidemiological and geospatial data to enable in-depth analysis. The mapping system will be optimised.*

# Towards the digital transformation of the OIE

In coming years, the OIE intends to undergo a digital transformation for data management and analysis. Its objective: to maximise the potential of the valuable data, particularly animal health data, that it collects, analyses and disseminates.

Having access to a large amount of quality data is an integral part of digitalising the Organisation, whether this involves its services, its processes or its tools. Through a strong governance framework, every effort will be made to provide parties with access to animal health information in accordance with data protection and sensitivity requirements. This governance will also ensure the proper use of these data, particularly their interoperability with data from our partners' platforms: a key step in being able to jointly analyse and disseminate a host of information from different sectors.

► its communication methods. Its document portal, for example, was completely overhauled in 2016. Today, it receives more than 12,000 visits per month. Thematic updates on priority topics such as rabies, African swine fever or antimicrobial resistance can be freely consulted, as can technical webinars. To raise awareness of animal health and welfare issues among a diverse and non-expert audience, the OIE also publishes regular newsletters and is increasing its presence on social networks by preferring more dynamic and user-friendly formats and greater use of digital tools. Since 2018, for example, an educational game has allowed future generations interested in animal health to learn how to diagnose diseases that resemble rinderpest, in an entertaining way.

## Networking with animal health stakeholders

New technologies are amazing tools for sharing high-quality information. Nevertheless, they alone do not build the collaborative relationships

essential for creating synergies between animal health stakeholders. This is why the OIE is piloting an international communications network which promotes the sharing of information and knowledge between countries and actors in different sectors. These exchanges allow everyone to optimise their

## Perspectives

### DATA MANAGEMENT TO ASSIST DECISION-MAKING

**Prior to the launch of the new OIE-WAHIS platform, the OIE organised an international conference on Big Data in late 2019, in Cagliari, Sardinia. The experts in attendance shared their experiences and discussed the transformation of complex data into relevant information to aid decision-making. These aggregated data open up new perspectives for improving disease monitoring. They will underpin a 'One Health' approach to action. In particular, Big Data enable a better assessment of health risks, in an environment where climate change and epidemiological developments pose new threats to animal health.**



*The OIE encourages its Members to share their experiences and best practices for a fruitful collaboration between Veterinary Services.*



protection against health risks and to put in place concerted actions to respond to global intersectoral challenges.

### **Training Veterinary Services in communication methods**

To ensure the implementation of effective control measures in the event of an epizootic disease, animal

health stakeholders must effectively communicate the hazards and risks, to the widest possible audience. Moreover, robust national communication capacities strengthen trust between countries by ensuring transparency and quality information-sharing.

The intense media coverage of some issues and the spread of false information about diseases can undermine the actions taken to control them, as well as the veterinary profession as a whole. To ensure that the general public has access to accurate scientific information, the OIE promotes the strengthening of the communication capacities of Veterinary Services. ➤

## **In 2019...**

### **A RENEWED WEB PRESENCE**

**In 2019, the OIE established online new websites for its five regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Middle-East. Modern, optimised, regularly updated and loaded with new features, these sites offer easy access to regional animal health information and enable the user to learn more about the OIE projects taking place in each region. After the success of these online launches, the OIE is continuing its digital modernisation by renovating its official site: initiated in 2019, this new project should be completed by late 2020.**



Visit our regional websites: [Africa](#) / [Americas](#) / [Asia-Pacific](#) / [Europe](#) / [Middle-East](#)



▶ Since 2017, the OIE has conducted two cycles of regional seminars focusing on risk communication. These sessions prepare Veterinary Services to take an active role in raising awareness and encouraging the adoption of best practices by all health stakeholders, for example in the use of antimicrobials. They also make it possible to create regional networks and to share experiences among countries. Equally, they include contributions from stakeholders from Partner Organisations, such as WHO and the FAO.

### Diversifying resources to better inform the public

In addition to training, the OIE supports the communication initiatives of its Members, making more and more resources available, which can be easily adapted and used in a local context. Multiple communication campaigns have been developed in several languages, providing tools and harmonised messages adapted to a diverse audience of veterinarians, farmers, stakeholders in the pharmaceutical industry and hunters, among others.

### Joint communications for higher impact

For subjects that involve multiple sectors, harmonising messages and



**Strengthening the communication capacity of Veterinary Services is essential for effective management of animal health risks.**

clarifying responsibilities is essential for the effectiveness of the measures put in place. In the fight against antimicrobial resistance, for example, the human, animal and environmental health sectors are focusing on common objectives. In particular, it is essential to promote the responsible and appropriate use of these medicines for each of the sectors involved. For this, it is necessary to change their customary use in humans, animals and agriculture as well as in national legislation.

In this context, the OIE has been developing a number of common awareness tools with WHO and FAO, since 2017.

A range of resources support joint technical recommendations and the implementation of national action plans. In 2019, these efforts intensified with the creation of a multi-partner trust fund to combat antimicrobial resistance. This mechanism aims at a transparent allocation of funds for the joint actions of the Tripartite Alliance, both at the global level and in support of countries, especially in developing and implementing their national action plans. Many donors have already contributed to this fund. ◀



**400+**

**members of Veterinary Services trained in communication since 2016.**

# Raising awareness to prevent African swine fever

Since there is no vaccine or effective treatment, African swine fever continues to decimate pig populations in Africa, Asia and Europe. The disease does not present a threat to human health, but affects animal welfare, causing serious economic and production losses and endangering food security.



Its transmission is strongly associated with movements of domestic and wild pigs, and pork products. Because the virus responsible for African swine fever is highly resistant in the environment, spread can occur via materials, contaminated feed and items such as footwear, clothing, vehicles and equipment. Thus, prevention is crucial. Ordinary travellers, farmers, border-control officers, all can contribute to the spread of the disease across regional and national borders. They can also all help to stem its spread, once adequately informed.



60+

**countries have used the campaign, in 16 languages.**

## An international prevention campaign

In 2019, to raise awareness of the disease's impacts, and the precautionary measures to take, the OIE launched the campaign: "African swine fever kills pigs." Posters, infographics and videos provided by the OIE have been used by many Members to protect their pig farms and their agricultural economies. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has also facilitated the distribution of these tools to travellers.



*The OIE campaign on ASF displayed in a market in Laos.*

 Learn more: <https://trello.com/b/GloiZoik/african-swine-fever-oie>



# Strengthening the resilience of animal health systems



*The global demand for animal products continues to grow. Ensuring the sustainability of production systems through robust animal health systems is essential.*

Good global governance of animal health is based on the capacities and coordination of the actors in the field. That is why the OIE supports the Veterinary Services of its Members by meeting their needs as closely as possible. Its objective: to help them become more effective and resilient in the face of animal health challenges.

**More effective  
Veterinary  
Services**

**Towards  
more resilient  
Veterinary  
Services**



**Veterinary Services and their activities make a vital contribution to the social well-being of those who depend on livestock for a living.**

**S**urveillance of animal diseases, control of products intended for consumption, research into human vaccines against seasonal influenza... Veterinary Services take action in many areas on a daily basis to ensure the health and welfare of animals, at the local and national level. Their expertise and the financing of their activities are essential to the success and sustainability of animal health policies.

However, the training and the human and financial resources of these Services are not always commensurate with the stakes involved. Recognising that good global health governance depends on strong national capacities as well as international coordination, the OIE supports the Veterinary Services of its Members in these areas.

## **More effective Veterinary Services**

The OIE provides various programmes, either cross-sectoral or focused on precise needs, to improve the performance of animal health services. These programmes are designed to empower and guide countries in the development and implementation of sustainable national plans which go well beyond purely veterinary matters.

## **The new PVS Pathway: a barometer of national Veterinary Services**

The PVS Pathway for sustainable improvement of Veterinary Services is one of OIE's flagship programmes. An independent and in-depth evaluation of the functioning of these Services, it makes it possible to identify their strengths and areas for improvement, and to recommend solutions specifically adapted to each country.

As part of the 6th Strategic Plan, this mechanism – created more than a decade ago – has been upgraded through open consultation with technical teams, as well as with experts, Members and OIE partners. The new PVS Pathway enables the OIE, among other things, to better respond to countries' needs by targeting, at their request, specific subjects, such as peste des petits ruminants, rabies or antimicrobial resistance. ▶▶



Interview



## The PVS Pathway reports: tools for advocacy”

Nigeria has been involved in several OIE PVS Pathway activities since 2010. In 2019, OIE conducted a PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission there, with a PPR Specific Content to assess the country’s specific needs to control this disease.



**Dr Olaniran Alabi**  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
OIE national Delegate  
NIGERIA

### *How did the PVS Evaluation mission proceed?*

We identified critical stakeholders to agree on a workplan. Among them were the Directors of State Veterinary Services, veterinarians from different sectors, as well as sheep and goats’ associations. Then we had field visits. The two-week mission was designed to cover every part of Nigeria. At the end, a report was produced by the experts who conducted the mission. We validated it with all critical stakeholders.

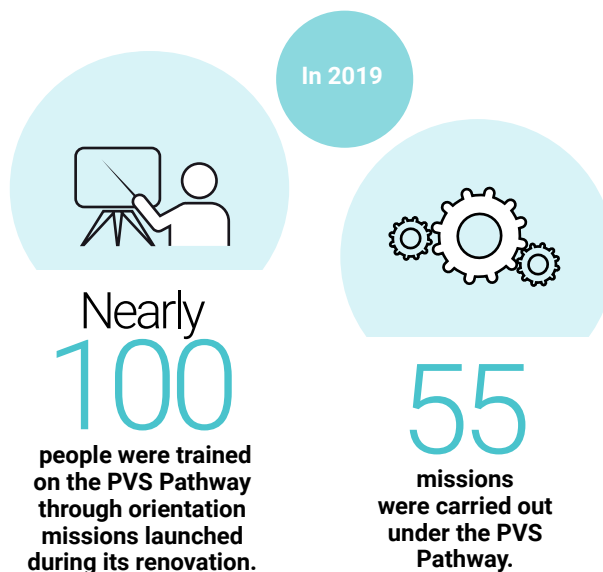
### *How did you use the report to improve Veterinary Services in your country?*

It helped us identify gaps and set up priorities. It also served as an advocacy document with great success. We recently learned that the Federal government was going to grant us financial support for the control of transboundary animal diseases and slaughterhouses upgrades. The report guided us to address specific shortcomings in our Veterinary Services. The report assisted and facilitated the inauguration of the national board for our Veterinary Statutory Body, after the PVS report helped us convince the government of its importance in coordinating actions nationwide. Following the PVS recommendations, we are improving our engagement of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) including their registration by the Veterinary statutory body. We are engaging them in our activities to make sure best

practices are used across the country, especially in remote areas where VPPs are the only animal health personnel available.

### *How did the PPR component of the PVS evaluation help?*

Our production system for small ruminants mainly consists of smallholder and semi-intensive farms. Village women are very much involved. It is an important source of livelihood for rural communities. The PPR component was therefore critical as it helped us advocate for better funds and gave us valuable information in support of the national PPR control and eradication plan.





*In some countries, Veterinary Services proceed to an auto-evaluation of their competencies, according to the criteria listed by the PVS Pathway.*

## Towards more resilient Veterinary Services

Not all health risks can be fully anticipated. But by fostering the availability of appropriate skills and strengthening the prevention and response capacities of Veterinary Services, countries are more resilient to current and future health challenges. The OIE's capacity-building programmes aim to achieve long-lasting results.

### Capacity-building customised to countries' needs

Once the needs and priorities of countries have been accurately identified through the PVS Pathway, the OIE provides a broad spectrum of training and support programmes to its Members. This support may be very specific, for example providing technical advice or activating the OIE vaccine bank to assist vaccination campaigns. It can also be applied to more global aspects, such as health coordination with public health services, which is essential for managing health risks at the human-animal interface. In this context, the OIE has increasingly developed the organisation of joint seminars with WHO to create a network between the animal health and human health services.

In 2019



11

**regional workshops were held jointly with WHO to establish networks between animal and human health services.**

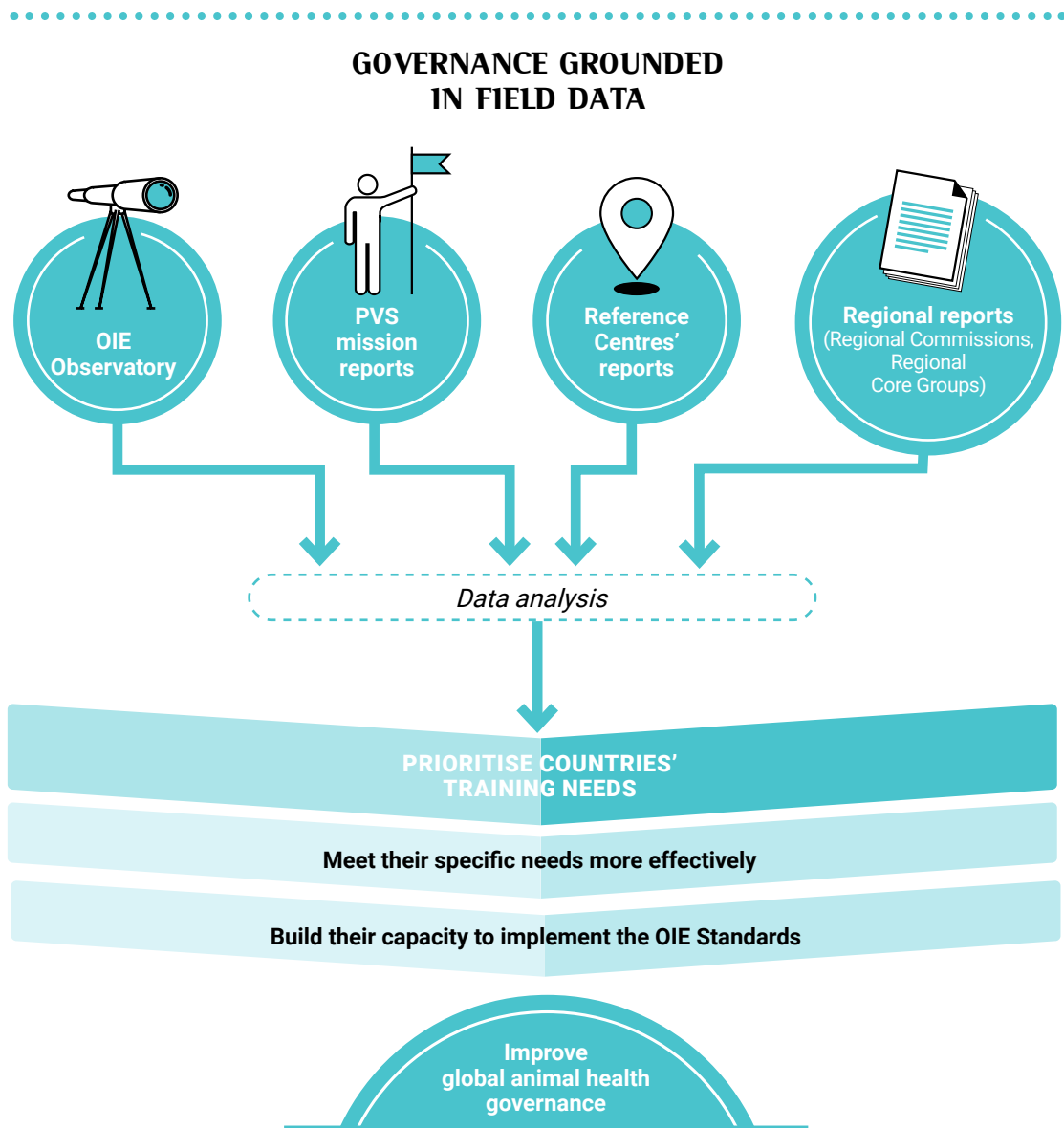
### Well-trained professionals

Within the framework of the 6th Strategic Plan, particular attention was paid to the training of veterinary paraprofessionals. Complementing the recommendations previously made for veterinarians, the OIE has issued guidelines to assist Veterinary Authorities to better define the role of these professionals and to adapt training provision to local needs. It is also a question of offering attractive employment opportunities to young people who wish to contribute to the socio-economic development of their country. In 2020, the Organisation will launch special projects in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Their goal: to encourage better integration of paraprofessionals into the activities of Veterinary Services. ▶▶

## RETHINKING THE OIE TRAINING SYSTEM

Training is essential to the quality of Veterinary Services. In response to this fact, the OIE began restructuring its training system in 2018, a decade after the first regional seminars were held for the national Focal Points of countries. In consultation with its Collaborating Centres and specific partners, the OIE created a worldwide platform for Veterinary Services training, which will become the preferred mechanism for organising, monitoring and evaluating all OIE training activities, whether online or in person.

This initiative will offer diverse and customised training programmes. It will meet the training needs of Veterinary Services in leadership and forward and strategic planning, as well as more technical needs in veterinary science. Within this framework, an online portal will be available to Members in 2020.



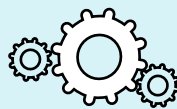


*In 2019, 200 participants representing the public and private sectors of 37 countries were trained to establish PPPs, during regional workshops in Africa and Asia.*

## Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): an effective and sustainable mechanism

To strengthen the effectiveness of Veterinary Services in the long term, collaborations between the public and private sectors are invaluable. This partnership mechanism, which has proven its worth in the veterinary field, enables the pooling of resources and creation of synergies. To encourage its Members to develop such collaborations, the OIE has published a handbook of guidelines as well as an online course. The purpose of these tools is to assist the establishment, development and monitoring of effective and sustainable Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary field.

In 2019



5

**joint FAO/OIE missions involving OIE experts, led by the Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health (EMC-AH), were conducted in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.**

weather events, which are often difficult to anticipate and which directly affect animal health. Countries must adapt to cope with these changes. In this context, the OIE is increasing its support to Veterinary Services to respond to all types of animal health emergencies, whether natural or due to human activities.

In recent years, it has improved the sharing of animal health information, principally through cross-linking data from the WAHIS platform with those of other early warning systems.

In 2019, an expert group on animal health emergencies was convened to assist Veterinary Services in the implementation of simulation exercises that focused more closely on field response. The objective was to provide countries with principles for action based on realistic scenarios that took into account local political and cultural features. The aim was also to identify the sectors that would be involved in a coordinated response in the event of an emergency. Guidelines will be published in 2020 and will complement those of 2016 on disaster management. ◀

## International cooperation to respond to health emergencies

The World Meteorological Organization has confirmed that 2019 was the second warmest year on record. Climate change is giving rise to more frequent extreme

Interview

# “Involving the private sector to upscale livestock vaccination”

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is key to regulating and implementing effective animal disease control measures, such as large-scale livestock vaccination in Kenya.

*What kind of PPP initiatives are being launched in Kenya, and what is your role in them?*

I am involved in PPP initiatives that aim to include private sector veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in the large-scale vaccination of livestock. Their contribution is vital to fighting several livestock diseases, such as peste des petits ruminants (PPR), foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. Vaccination is usually done by the public sector in Kenya, but to upscale our action, we need to bring the private sector in. To that effect, I recently led the publication of a circular paper to provide national guidelines on the involvement of the private sector in livestock vaccination across the country, taking into account the guidelines produced by OIE on the topic.

*How are OIE PPP workshops helpful in implementing these initiatives?*

We had a workshop in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2019. OIE experts and partners presented success stories



*Panorama 2019-3 provides an overview of the benefits of PPPs in the veterinary domain.*



**Dr Obadiah Nyaga Njagi**

Chief Veterinary Officer  
OIE national Delegate

KENYA

from different countries and we exchanged best practices with participants during group sessions. This was very helpful to appreciate what the private sector has to offer. Private sector actors now realise that there is a gap they can help us fill in, not just in Kenya but also in the region. Discussing best practices with neighbouring countries during the workshop was most useful. The participation of the private sector at the workshop was an excellent idea.

*Why is regional coordination crucial to this PPP initiative's success?*

Wide-scale vaccination against transboundary diseases such as PPR requires cross-border coordinated action. In the Karamoja region, which includes Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, we target a million cattle vaccinated on the Kenyan side, thanks to efficient PPP. To achieve this, and with support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), we signed a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding and developed an implementation protocol that created cross-border governance structures and communication pathways at national and regional levels.

# A new alliance against agro-terrorism


The OIE, FAO and INTERPOL are joining forces to protect countries from potential agro-terrorist attacks and to improve their capacity to respond to the animal and human health emergencies that such attacks may lead to.



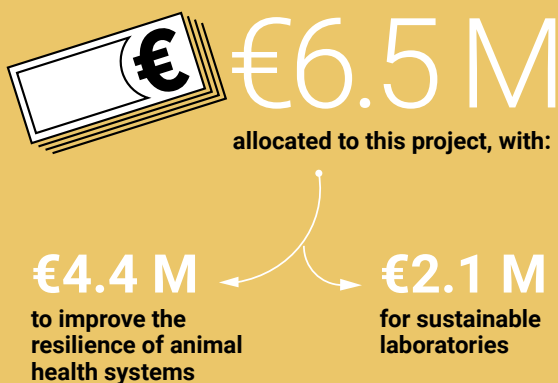
In an international environment marked by uncertainty and instability, protecting animals from the malicious use of toxic biological agents is crucial to maintaining global food and health security. For this reason, the OIE, FAO and INTERPOL are working on a joint project: “Building resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime”.

## International cooperation for security

Signed in October 2018, the project from the new OIE-FAO-INTERPOL consortium is being implemented until 2021. Its aim is to increase global resilience against agro-terrorism. Its methods: to build the capacity of stakeholders in the field and better coordination between the animal health and law enforcement sectors.

 *Managing bioterrorism and agro-terrorism risks cannot be envisaged without cross-sectoral collaboration involving the areas of human and animal health, as well as security.*

The project will be implemented in three phases: a first phase of study and evaluation, a second training phase and a third phase of international cooperation. A global Conference on Emergency Management to revisit and share the knowledge accumulated during the initiative’s implementation will conclude this first project of its kind.



- 3** priority regions
- North Africa
  - South-East Asia
  - Middle East

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