Project background

Title: Supporting early threat warning project for WOAH 7th Strategic Plan funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Aim: to promote transparency in disease reporting and sharing.

Objective: to strengthen WOAH's early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific region through intelligence-gathering, active search activity (rumour tracking), and information sharing.

Target participants: WOAH Members and territories in Asia and the Pacific region.

Components:
1. Intelligence gathering - gap analysis, consultancy
2. Asia-Pacific rumour tracking
3. Development & implementation of a strategy – information sharing

One of WOAH 's missions: to ensure transparency of the animal disease situation worldwide.

To meet this objective, WOAH collects official notifications of animal diseases from its Members and disseminates the information to the international community.

Improving disease notification to WOAH: Asia-Pacific in supporting early threat warning (active search activity) - funded by DAFF, Australia

WAHIS – at global

o **WAHIS**, a global database for official animal health information – maintains by WOAH

o Since 2005, WAHIS tracks diseases for domestic animals, wildlife & zoonoses diseases.

o WAHIS offers interactive tools for users to explore, visualise & download validated animal disease data.

Active search activity – at WOAH regional level

o Early 2024, Asia-Pacific team tracks rumors related to animal diseases and creates weekly summaries of this information, for internal dissemination within WOAH.

o Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) - WHO's EIOS initiative uses open-source data to speed up detection and response to public health emergencies.

The active search process at Asia-Pacific

Data collection
The active search team for Asia-Pacific gathers information from thousands of online resources (i.e., news articles, social media, official reports) through EIOS. This activity is conducted twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday through its digests.

Analysis
The team analyses this data to identify potential disease event of interest and assess their risks.

Communication
The team disseminate this information internally to raise awareness and enable informed responses if needed. Relevant news is then shared with the active search team in WAHIAD for clarification with Members/territories. If needed, based on the detected news signals, Members will submit official notifications to WAHIS.

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ACTIVE SEARCH PROCEDURE APPLIED BY WOAH

4. Immediate notification
Immediate notification published by WOAH.

3. **Triage (Confirmation or Denial)**
Sort information according to relevance - i.e., relevant reports.
Official confirmation or denial by Delegates.

2. **Authentication**
Evaluate the credibility of the sources and accuracy of the information.

1. **Search and identification**
Perform WOAH-specific queries in EIOS to identify signals of potential interest.

EIOS – key figures

Daily screening of the web for all listed and emerging diseases
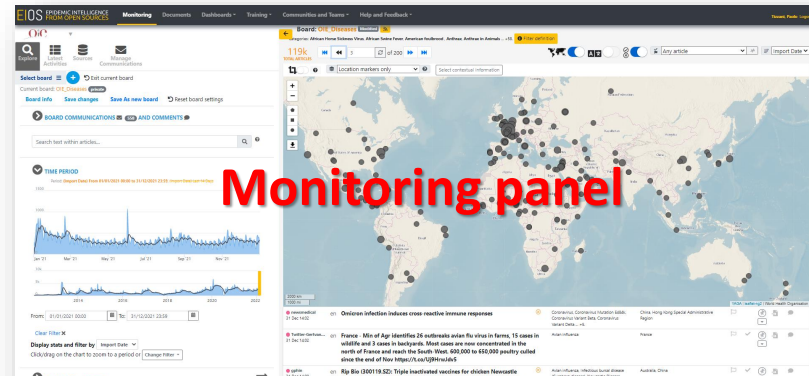
15,000 sources

500 disease categories

15 languages

100,000 – 150,000 news/year

Communication between WOAH and its Members

WOAH epidemic intelligence activity using EIOS

EIOS fosters a global public health intelligence collaboration, uniting stakeholders and leveraging open-source data for early detection and response to public health threats under a One Health, all-hazards approach. WHO leads this multi-stakeholder initiative under its Health Emergencies Programme. As a global collaboration, the EIOS initiative is governed by a Coordination Group with representatives from various organisations; WOAH is one of the organisations.