World Organisation for Animal Health

Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Indonesia

In partnership with Canada

Recommendations and Actions

Workshop on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia

Bali, Indonesia

June 2 – 3, 2026

DRAFT Actions and Recommendations

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) convened a Sub-Regional 'Workshop on Biological Threat Reduction in Bali, Indonesia, from 2–3 June 2026. The workshop brought together representatives from the 10 ASEAN Member States, alongside partners and regional stakeholders, including the ASEAN Health Division, ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC), Regional Public Health Laboratory (RHPL) Network, Department of Medical Sciences (Thailand), Oxford-MORU, INTERPOL, WOAH Headquarters, the WOAH Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia (SRR-SEA), and other subject-matter experts.

The workshop identified priority gaps, challenges, needs, and opportunities for strengthening biological threat prevention, detection, and response capacities in South-East Asia. It also discussed mechanisms, partnerships, and ASEAN sectoral bodies that could effectively coordinate, institutionalise, and sustain collaboration across the animal health, public health, security, law enforcement, and other relevant sectors. In addition, participants worked to develop a practical and collaborative regional workplan, including priority actions, timelines, and responsible stakeholders, to guide future biological threat reduction efforts and capacity-building activities including those will be supported under 'Beyond Silos ASEAN Component' Project.

Through a series of technical discussions, interactive exercises, and group work sessions, participants developed the following recommendations supported by potential actions in ANNEX 1:



- **Regional Coordination and cooperation**

  - Members, WOAH, ASEAN Network Bodies and partners should support regional coordination, cooperation, and multisectoral engagement by providing platforms for veterinary services, public health, laboratory, security, and law enforcement stakeholders to exchange information, strengthen partnerships, and promote a coordinated approach to biological threat reduction arising from deliberate or accidental release of biological agents across the region.

  - WOAH, with the support of Members and partners, should conduct a regional scoping study to assess and better understand the biological threat reduction landscape in South-East Asia, establish a baseline on existing animal health sector capacities, gaps, and opportunities. to fully capitalise animal health sector contribution to biothreat reduction and global health security.

- **Policy and planning**

  - WOAH, together with all Beyond Silos project partners in the ASEAN project component, need to design and implement a unified strategy that promotes and expands understanding of what a whole-of-government approach to biological threat reduction. Drawing on the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity and underpinned by a commitment to foster a broader understanding of One Health, partners should work with national governments to expand or better understand and utilise integrated, multi-sector policies and

practices. These should embed coordinated actions across relevant sectors to prevent, prepare and respond to the full range of biological threats regardless of their origin, including laboratory-associated infections, agro-crime, agro-terrorism and cross border animal and human biological threats.

- Member to review and update or develop where necessary national biothreat reduction strategies and plans, biological risk management guidelines and strengthen the enabling environment covering legal and regulatory frameworks for its implementation.

- **Laboratory Systems including Biosafety and Biosecurity**

- Strengthen sustainable laboratory systems through investment in a competent and well supported workforce, and by reinforcing governance, leadership, and coordination mechanisms and capacity building to ensure safe, secure, resilient, and effective laboratory services for the prevention, detection, and response to biological threats.

- Develop and strengthen laboratory partnership and twinning programmes to harmonise diagnostic standards and build sustainable capacities in biosafety, biosecurity, quality management, and laboratory diagnostics through knowledge exchange, training, and technical collaboration

- **Capacity building**

- Develop national and regional level work plans to define capacity building activities to strengthen the Veterinary Services' biological threat reduction capabilities. These activities should also include joint trainings, workshops to strengthen multisectoral collaboration such as through simulation exercises (e.g. tabletop exercises and drills) to build response capacities and test cross-border preparedness and response mechanisms.

- Efforts should be made to include the security sector, as it is often absent from the standard One Health approach to multisectoral collaboration.

- **Networking**

- Members and partners should strengthen their engagement in national and regional security initiatives to enhance the visibility and participation of Veterinary Services and animal health sector in regional and global efforts to reduce biological threats.

- Members and partners should facilitate virtual and in person meetings, technical exchanges, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities at regular intervals among

biological threat reduction contact points to strengthen capacities, foster collaboration, and support the implementation of regional, national priorities and action plans. This engagement may be facilitated through the establishment of a regional community of practice, strengthening exiting biothreat contact points network, and other knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

- **Advocacy and communication**

- Members and partners to drive advocacy and communication to strengthen animal health commitment on ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity.

- Strengthen advocacy and strategic communication to promote the integration of Veterinary Services into national security and emergency management frameworks (i.e. whole of government approach), risk-based approaches to biological threat reduction, and the importance and advantages of integrating the security, and other relevant sectors into the One Health approach.

- Facilitate comprehensive partnership and activity mapping at both national and regional levels to streamline initiatives, minimise the duplication of efforts across the region, and optimize collaboration and resource-sharing among international organisations, partners (both public and private) and relevant stakeholders.

Acknowledgement

- Express gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for its successful hosting of this Workshop on Biothreat Reduction in South-East Asia.
- Express gratitude to the financial support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC)'s Weapons Threat Reduction Program.
- Thank all the participants, resource persons and presenters for their active engagement in the training workshops

ANNEX 1: ACTIONS

1. **POLICY and PLANNING**

1) Members to harmonize legal frameworks; review or develop an integrated, multi-sectoral biothreat strategy and legal framework where necessary.
2) Members to request WOAH's support through Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) to review and update or develop legal and regulatory framework for biothreat reduction, biosafety and biosecurity.
3) Members to strengthen a National coordination mechanism using the One Health approach. Advocate the ministries Foreign Affairs and existing interagency

committees (e.g., NAPHS, Zoonoses committees) to lead coordination and involve security sector on biothreat reduction.

4) WOAH and partners to leverage regional networks, expert groups and forums for example the ABVC, ARDEX, ALDF, AMBT, and specialized laboratory networks for example ALD BSS, POD, and ALN.

5) WOAH and partners to provide support to Members to review and update or develop where necessary, national Biothreat Reduction strategies, Biological Risk Management plans, guidelines and SOPS to enhance biosafety and biosecurity.

2. LABORATORY SYSTEM INCLUDING BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY

1) Members with the support of partners to strengthen and expand the implementation of biosafety, biosecurity, and Quality Management Systems (QMS) across laboratory networks from central to subnational levels.

2) Members to strengthen capacities to secure handling of pathogens, establish and maintain robust pathogen inventory; develop and implement corrective action plans to address identified gaps on biological risk management pathogen value chain from sample collection to waste management.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

1) Members to review or establish where necessary mandatory onboarding cycles for the new staff. Engage academia to promote embedding biothreat reduction into university curricula or trainings to raise baseline competencies.

2) WOAH and additional partners need to build Evidence of effectiveness of One Health Security for Biological Threat Reduction.
    a) Identify possible cross-border sites from ASEAN countries (for example Thailand-Laos, Timor-Leste-Indonesia, Vietnam-Cambodia to design and implement cross-border action research/ projects. *
    b) Baseline understandings of Biological Threat knowledge of all cross-border stakeholders from communities, traders, border officials (customs, agriculture, health etc). It should also include a border specific biological threat priority list (Foot and Mouth. ASF, SARS type viruses etc) **
    c) Training and awareness building for all stakeholders to enhance both sector knowledge and coordination concepts
    d) Implement a surveillance protocol that deploys multiple tools and early warning signal/data point, regular cross border exchanges of information
    e) Celebrate and socialise findings about enhanced One Health Security and Biological Threat Reductions.
3) Operationalise Coordination via SimEx: Move from theory to practice by organizing regular multi-state, multisectoral Simulation Exercises (SimEx) and Table-Top Exercises (TTX) focused on biological threats.

4) Members, WOAH and partners to organise activities to improve capacities and competencies of the Veterinary authorities (including those of nominated biothreat contact points) to prevent, detect and respond to biothreat including deliberate or accidental misuse of pathogens or disruption to health-security systems.

3. Multistakeholder collaborations

1) Members and partners to consider strengthening or developing formal operational partnerships, scientific networks and conduct joint awareness and engagement progarmmes and activities between the animal health, security and other relevant sectors on biothreat reduction.

2) Members to consider strengthening or developing a formal data-sharing mechanisms between sectors such as Public Health, Animal Health and other relevant sectors by identifying priority data to be shared, assigning institutional responsibilities, and implementing standardised procedures for regular and timely information exchange.

4. ADVOCACY

1) Members to promote high-level political advocacy to mandate security, environmental, forest (wildlife) and other relevant sectors engagement on biothreat reduction.

2) WOAH could engage quadripartite, INTERPOL and ASEAN partners and networks to bring One Health and Biological Threat Reductions into joint sittings of the ASEAN Health and ASEAN Political and Security platforms. These efforts would foster national level adoption of One Health as a component of National Security platforms and decision making.

3) Establish formal operational partnerships and conduct joint awareness training between the animal health and security sectors. Drive high-level political advocacy to mandate environmental sector engagement.

5. COMMUNICATION

1) WOAH in consultation with Members to develop, disseminate communication materials to improve awareness of the stakeholder to prevent, prepare, detect and respond to biological threats.

2) Members, WOAH and partners to work together on improving capacities on risk communication including the current challenges on misinformation, disinformation, cybersecurity and other emerging disruptive technology.