

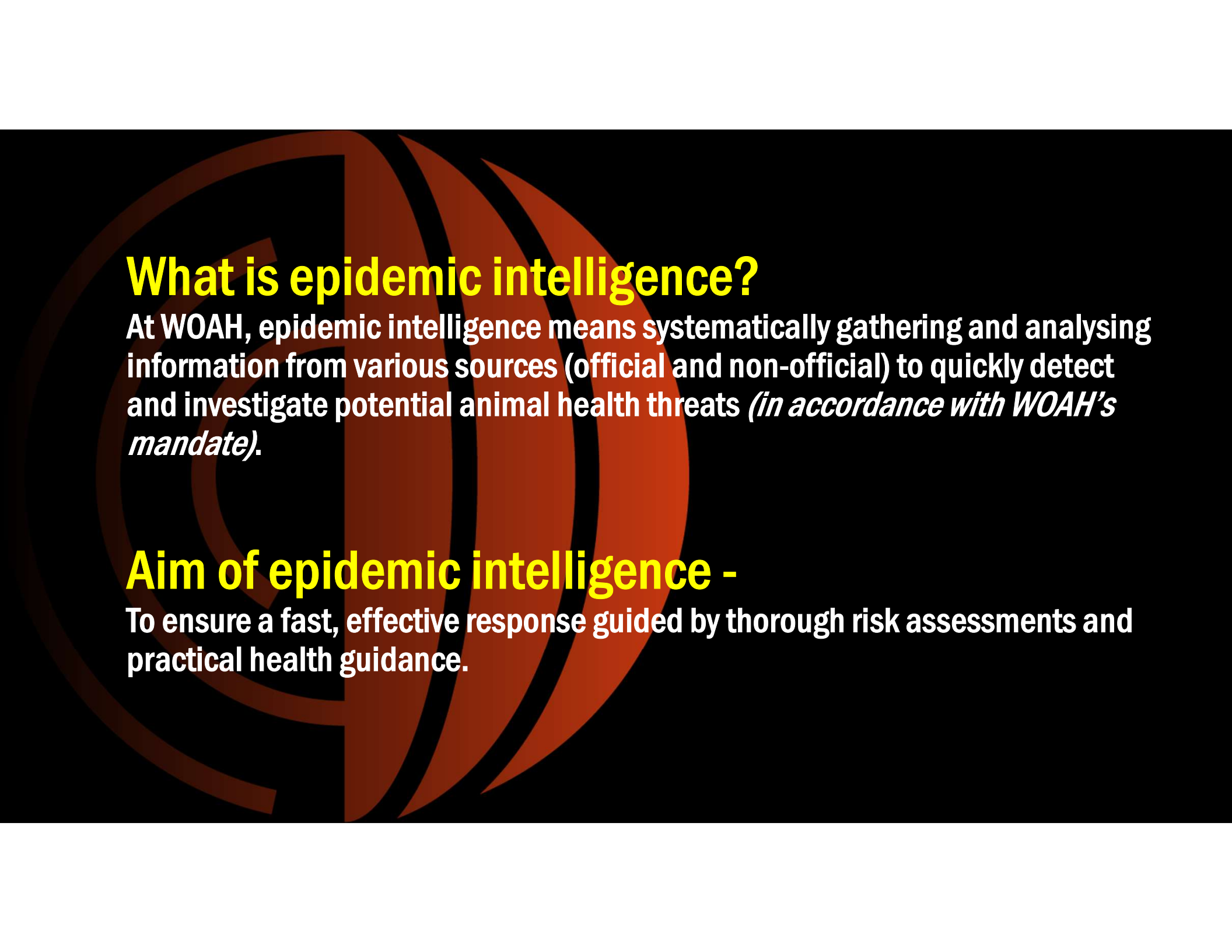
WOAH Active Search Procedure for Epidemic Intelligence in Asia-Pacific Region

Integrating Open-Source Signals with Member Verification for Early Threat Warning

WOAH Epidemic Intelligence: Event-Based Surveillance for
Animal Health in the Asia-Pacific (Part 2)
29 September 2026 Tuesday, 4 PM (JST)



Presented by
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What is epidemic intelligence?

At WOAHA, epidemic intelligence means systematically gathering and analysing information from various sources (official and non-official) to quickly detect and investigate potential animal health threats (*in accordance with WOAHA's mandate*).

Aim of epidemic intelligence -

To ensure a fast, effective response guided by thorough risk assessments and practical health guidance.



Why epidemic intelligence matters

While official disease notification is important, it can sometimes show information gaps & significant reporting delays. By actively monitoring non-official sources (i.e., media reports & web scraping), WOAHI can detect outbreak signals significantly faster than official channels.

Sources for epidemic intelligence data

Event-Based Surveillance

Media monitoring using internet-based epidemic intelligence platforms - ad-hoc gathering of information about potential health events (i.e., Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources – EIOS – scans signals, rumours, unusual patterns from sources like news media, social networks, community hotlines, informal community reports)

Indicator-Based Surveillance

Analysis & interpretation of structured data obtained from formal reporting platforms (i.e., World Animal Health Information System – WAHIS; laboratories; veterinary facilities; reference centres; department official documents)

The consequences of slow information in animal health

The challenge → the need for real-time surveillance (*i.e. what happens when information isn't shared in a timely & accurate way*)

Zoonotic spillover to humans

many animal diseases are zoonotic

Amplified spread and economic consequences

undetected outbreaks can (*rapidly*) infect an entire region

Trade restrictions

failure to report → trade restrictions

Misinformation & disinformation

inaccurate information → unintentionally & deliberately

Ecosystem & wildlife disruption

spill over to wild populations

Development of the epidemic intelligence initiative in the **WOAH Asia-Pacific**



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Funded by Australian
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry
(DAFF) under the WOAH 7th
Strategic Plan

Dec 2022

Gap analysis report



Dec 2023

AST-Asia-Pacific weekly
EIOS digest established
(internal distribution)

Nov 2024

Consultancy study on
barriers to disease
notification



Nov 2025

Article: What is
preventing the reporting
of animal diseases in the
Asia-Pacific?



**Aug, Sep & Oct
2026**

Epidemic intelligence
webinars (1, 2 & 3)

Apr–Nov 2023

Establishment of Asia-
Pacific Active Search
Team



Apr 2024

Initiation of the Asia-
Pacific active search
summary report (monthly
internal distribution)

Sep 2025

Initiation of the animal
health epidemic
intelligence report for the
Asia-Pacific (quarterly
external distribution)



Mar 2026

Video: What lies behind
the reluctance to notify
diseases



Jan 2027 – Dec 2030

Phase 2 of the Epidemic
Intelligence Asia-Pacific
(WOAH 8th SP, funded by
Australian DAFF)

The active search (or 'rumour tracking') process at Asia-Pacific

Data collection

The active search team Asia-Pacific gathers information from online resources (i.e., news articles, social media, official reports) through EIOS. This activity is conducted twice weekly 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 shared with Members/territories for clarifications. If needed, based on the detected news signals, Members will submit official notifications to WAHIS.

4 ACTIVE SEARCH PROCEDURE APPLIED BY WOA



WOAH epidemic intelligence activity – official & unofficial sources



The Joint FAO–WHO–WOAH Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human–animal–ecosystem interface (GLEWS+)

Advancing one health intelligence to anticipate emerging risks and guide decisions



EIOS EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE FROM OPEN SOURCES

Reference Laboratories (WOAH network)



Intelliriver Source

Local contacts (informal)

WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

WAHIS is the global animal health reference database of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). WAHIS data reflects the validated information since 2005 reported by the Veterinary Services from Member and non-Member Countries and Territories on terrestrial and aquatic Listed diseases in domestic animals and wildlife, as well as on emerging diseases and zoonoses.

WAHIS includes interactive mapping tools and dashboards to support data consultation, visualization and extraction of officially validated animal health data.

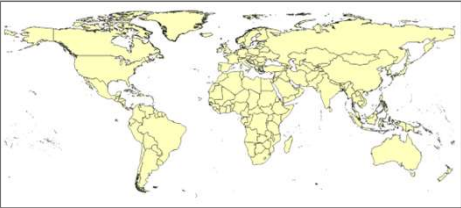


Latest animal disease events

Country/Territory	Disease - genotype/serotype/subtype	Date
Ukraine	African swine fever virus (Inf. with)	2023/11/06
Ukraine	African swine fever virus (Inf. with)	2023/11/06
Ukraine	African swine fever virus (Inf. with)	2023/11/03
Russia	African swine fever virus (Inf. with)	2023/11/03
Mexico	High pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (poultry) (Inf. with) H5N1	2023/11/02
Colombia	Influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (Inf. with) (non-poultry including wild birds) (2017-) H5 (N untyped)	2023/11/01
Russia	Influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (Inf. with) (non-poultry including wild birds) (2017-) H5N1	2023/10/31
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	Influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (Inf. with) (non-poultry including wild birds) (2017-) H5N1	2023/10/30



WOAH verifies with Members



Boards I can view

16 owned by my Communities 3 owned by other Communities

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Board Activity

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1

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Visibility And Scope

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Users Tags

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Status

Active

Clear()

World Organisation for Animal Health

EIOS Daily Digest

Owner: WOAHP Updated: 2026-07-09, 10:57:06 UTC Created: 2021-05-27, 07:54:54 UTC

World Organisation for Animal Health

All WOAHP Articles

Owner: WOAHP Created: 2026-07-07, 19:21:44 UTC

World Organisation for Animal Health

Influenza D

Owner: WOAHP / DIAD Updated: 2026-07-02, 06:54:48 UTC Created: 2026-06-25, 05:44:43 UTC Contributors: WOAHP

World Health Organization

Ebola in DRC and Uganda - Global Monitoring (All Communities)

Owner: WHO / EIOS support Updated: 2026-06-01, 12:23:06 UTC Created: 2026-05-18, 13:37:07 UTC Contributors: WHO, GHSI, GOARN...+171

World Health Organization

Hantavirus Global Monitoring (All Communities)

Owner: WHO / EIOS support Updated: 2026-05-12, 12:25:11 UTC Created: 2026-05-12, 12:25:11 UTC Contributors: WHO, GHSI, GOARN...+170

World Organisation for Animal Health

Asia-Pacific Digest

Owner: WOAHP / WOAHP Asia Pacific Updated: 2026-04-23, 11:07:10 UTC Created: 2023-12-05, 02:41:13 UTC Contributors: WOAHP

World Organisation for Animal Health

Estimating WAHIS sensitivity

Owner: WOAHP / DIAD Updated: 2026-04-06, 06:37:34 UTC Created: 2026-04-06, 06:36:09 UTC Contributors: WOAHP

World Organisation for Animal Health

FMD South Africa

Owner: WOAHP Updated: 2026-02-23, 06:51:23 UTC Created: 2026-01-30, 09:48:14 UTC

10 Items per Page

1 of 2

Clear Filters

4.49K
TOTAL SOURCES

Subject and Type

Source Geographical Areas

All Countries, territories and areas

Search Keywords...

Select All Deselect All

☐ Japan 458

☐ Nepal 452

☐ Thailand 323

☐ China 282

☐ India 227

☐ Türkiye 178

☐ Bangladesh 161

☐ Republic of Korea 149

☐ Georgia 142

☐ Iran (Islamic Republic of) 121

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Search Keywords...

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☐ All in South-East Asia 1443

☐ All in Eastern Mediterranean 889

☐ All in Europe 551

☐ All in Africa 0

☐ All in Americas 0

☐ All in not assigned 0

All Continents

Search Keywords...

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14 March
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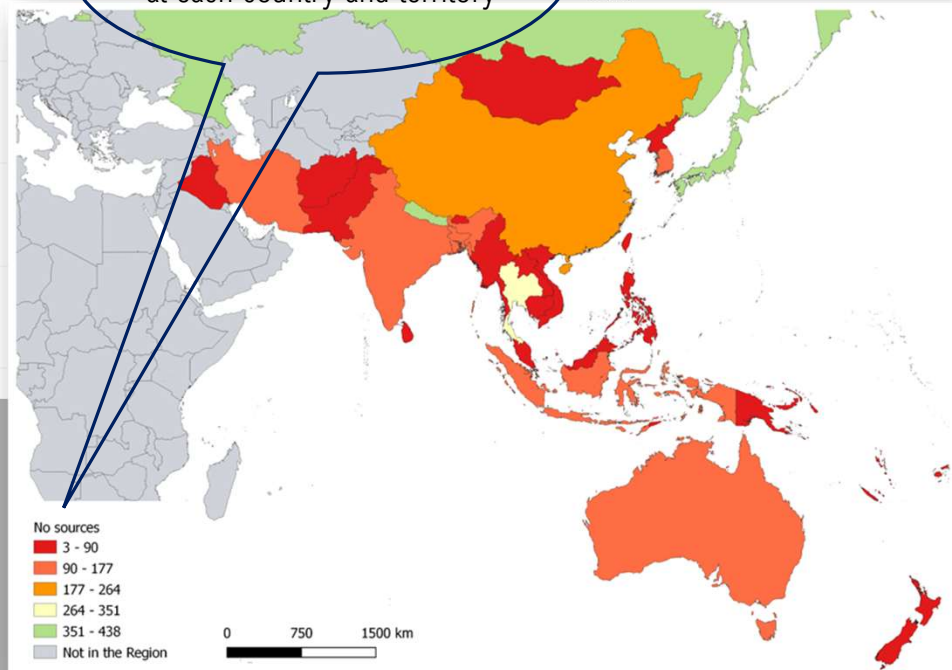
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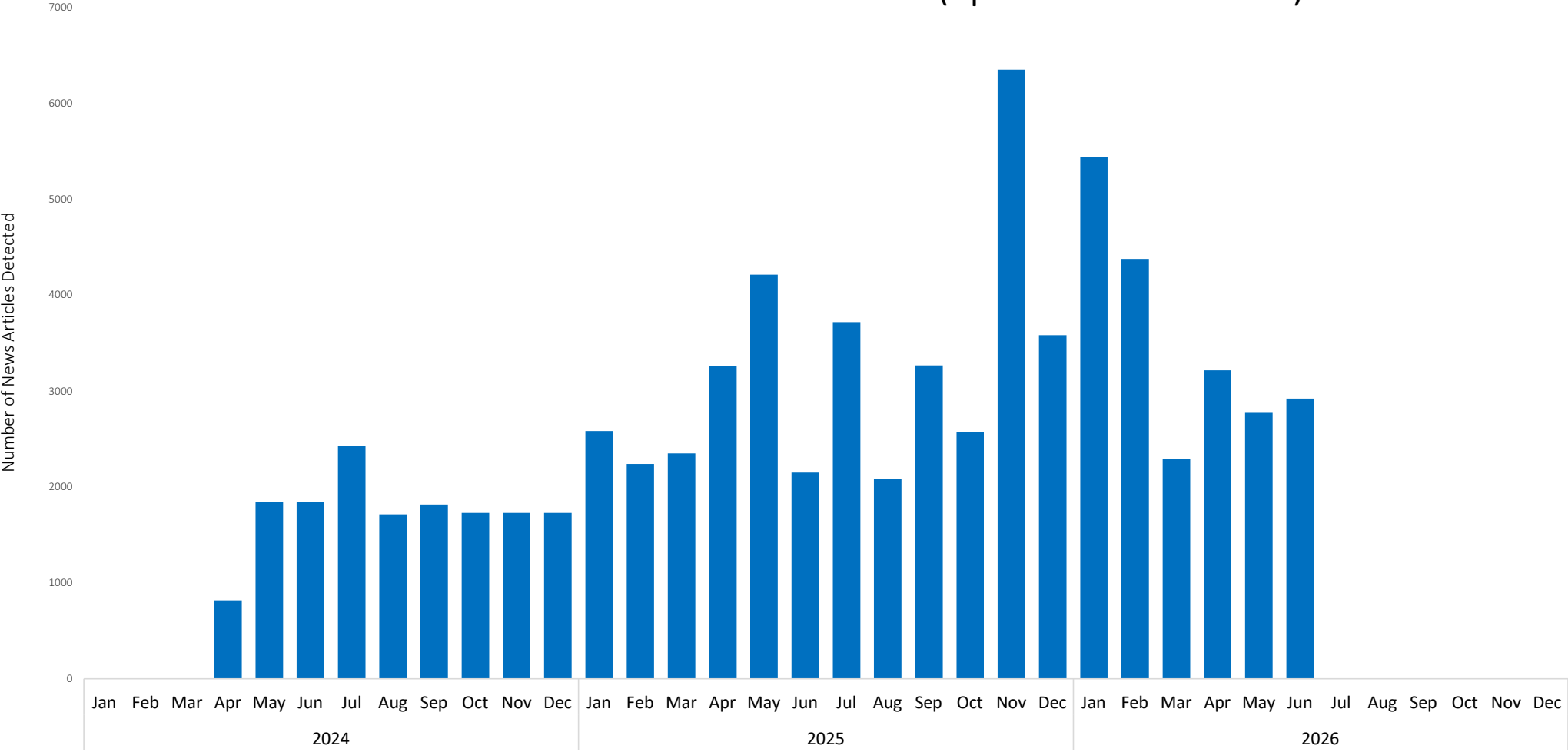
Total sources for Asia-Pacific

The aim is to increase the number of available sources at each country and territory

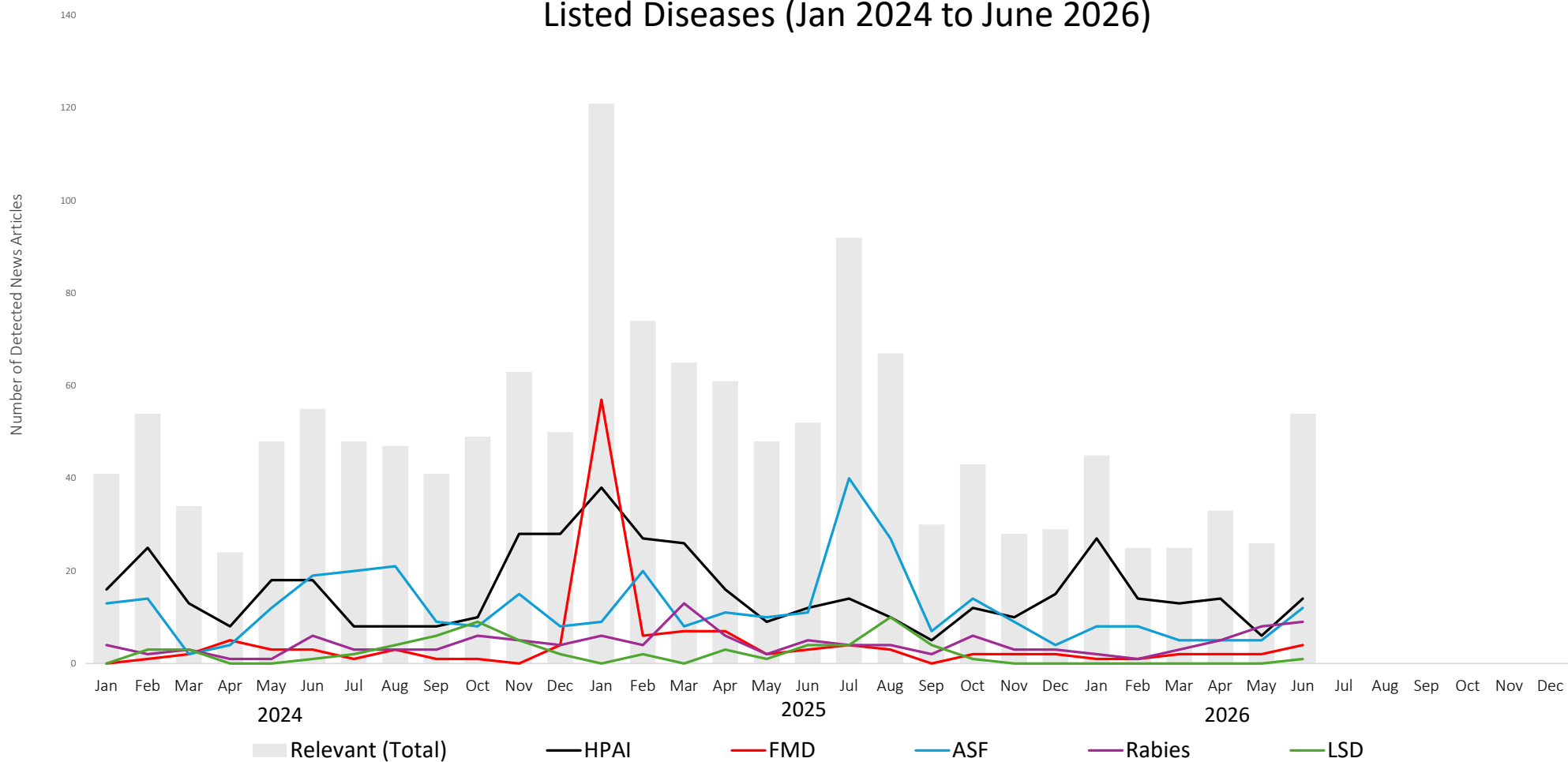


Total sources (global): 30180

Total News Articles Screened via EIOS (April 2024 – June 2026)



Monthly EIOS Screening: Total Relevant Articles vs Commonly Detected WOAH-Listed Diseases (Jan 2024 to June 2026)



Key takeaways

Looking Beyond Official Reports - Waiting for official reports can sometimes take too long. By scanning the news and the internet, we can spot early warning signs of animal diseases much faster than relying on official channels alone.

Fact-Checking the Rumours - We do not just collect information; we actively verify it. We find the news, check its credibility, confirm the facts with official government authorities, then issue a formal alert.

Regional Source Expansion is the Future Goal - Looking ahead, our biggest goal for the Asia-Pacific region is to tap into more local news and data sources in every single country/territory. More local sources mean better and faster early warnings.

Scan for more
information

