Governance and Performance of Veterinary Services

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) runs a programme called the PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathway to support Members in evaluating their capacity against WOAH international standards. The **Observatory** presents a selection of data from the PVS Pathway that can help to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of national Veterinary Services.

Members have been significantly engaged with the PVS Pathway over the years



The geographical distribution of the activities was uneven.



Number of PVS activities conducted in WOAH regions Source: PVS dataset, 2006-2021

However, data suggest that there is a decreasing interest in PVS Follow-up and Gap Analysis missions

This drop started prior to COVID-19 which prevented mission deployments for 18 months during 2020 and 2021. Considering the cyclic nature of the PVS Pathway, it was expected that the number of PVS Evaluation and Follow-up missions and the number of Gap Analysis missions would remain stable or at least present a cyclic trend over time.



Number of PVS Evaluation + Follow-up and PVS Gap Analysis missions undertaken Source: PVS dataset, 2006-2021

Of the Members that engaged in the PVS Pathway,



undertook only one activity without further engagement.



had their last PVS Evaluation or Follow-up mission prior to 2016.

The capacity of Members varies depending on the Critical Competency considered

The average Level of Advancement per Critical Competency (CC) ranges from

to



CC IV-1. related to preparation of legislation and regulations

Each Critical Competency is assigned a Level of Advancement ranging from 1 to 5	Level 5 Level 4	High capacity
	Level 3	Minimal capacity
	Level 2	Low capacity
	Level 1	

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for multiple Critical Competencies from the 6th edition of the PVS Too

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Develop the PVS Evaluation Database and Information System to ensure the automated collection of PVS data in a standardised framework.
- Explore the hurdles to continued engagement in the PVS Pathway and encourage Members to request PVS missions.
- Use the PVS outcomes to identify gaps and build tailored capacitybuilding activities.

Members

- Consider undertaking a PVS Follow-up mission if the last PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions was conducted more than five years ago.
- Perform PVS self-evaluations using the new targeted support programme to monitor progress.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



leterinary Services' workforce and resources

To carry out their activities, Veterinary Services need an enabling environment where they can work to their optimal capacity and receive adequate training. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards to assist Veterinary Services in strengthening their capacity, both in terms of human and financial resources. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

There is great variability in the workforce of Veterinary Services across regions



A limited number of Members have access to sufficient resources

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is as follows:



Percentage of Members with a Level of Advancement of 3 or more for each of the 9 Critical Competencies relevant to workforce Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 - Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies 1.1.A., 1.1.B., 1.2.A., 1.2.B., 1.7., 1.8., 1.9., III.5.A., III.5.A. III.5

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

Members

- Explore the relevance of collecting disaggregated data to map the workforce dedicated to different categories of animals.
- Consider identifying an indicative workforce benchmark.
- Advocate for appropriate resourcing of Veterinary Services and develop tailored capacity building strategies.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.
- Use the available tools (e.g. PVS Gap Analysis) to advocate for appropriate resourcing of Veterinary Services at the national level.
- Establish or strengthen Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) authority and capacity, in line with relevant standards.
- Consider taking part in the WOAH VSB Twinning Programme.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



World Organisation for Animal Health Founded as OIE

of these

workforce

capacity

resources)

Members have

overall sufficient

of WOAH

Members ar WTO Memb

World Trade Organization (WTO) notifications

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) is the WTO reference organisation for international standards related to animal health and zoonoses. The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) defines the basic rules for the application of food safety and animal and plant health measures in international trade. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of the WOAH standards that relate to trade.

90%

e also	
ers	

WTO Members file SPS notifications with the WTO related to new or modified sanitary legislation that may have a significant effect on trade. These notifications can indicate whether or not the legislation conforms with WOAH standards.

WTO SPS notifications related to WOAH standards have seen an increase in recent years



Most WTO SPS notifications are filed by a small subset of WTO Members

wOAH Members filed

WTO SPS notifications

between 2005 and 2021

However, only 10 WTO Members were responsible for 60% of all notifications. WOAH-related notifications account for just

> of all WTO SPS notifications

83% of WOAHrelated WTO SPS notifications claim that the referenced legislation conformed to WOAH standards.

97%

of WTO SPS notifications linked to WOAH standards relate to terrestrial animal diseases and almost 1/3 to avian influenza.

Source: WTO dataset, 2005-2021

Historically, very few trade disputes related to animal diseases have been filed with the WTO



WOAH Members that submit WTO notifications tend to have greater capacity to access trade and interact with stakeholders

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is as follows:



Percentage of Members with a Level of Advancement of 3 or more for 5 different Critical Competencies relating to access to

markets and interaction with stakeholders

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies III.3., IV.2., IV.3., IV.4., IV.6. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

Members

- Search for additional indicators that assess the implementation of WOAH standards relating to trade.
- File SPS notifications related to new or modified sanitary legislation that may significantly affect trade, as required by the SPS Agreement.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Disease detection, surveillance and diagnosis

Animal health surveillance is crucial to determine the absence, presence and distribution of animal diseases and detect emerging diseases as early as possible. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards related to the surveillance of animal diseases. Through its Annual Report, the <u>Observatory</u> intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

The implementation of disease surveillance systems varies across regions and diseases

Not all WOAH-listed diseases are subject to compulsory notification at national level

This raises questions about the ability of Members to fully comprehend the disease situation in their territories and comply with WOAH notification requirements.



Median number of animal diseases notifiable at national level among the WOAH-listed diseases for terrestrial and aquatic animals

Source: WAHIS six-monthly reports, 2019

A limited number of Members meet all disease surveillance criteria

due to the limited percentage of Members with national Reference Laboratories. This raises questions about their diagnostic capacity.



Percentage of Members meeting surveillance parameters for various animal diseases Source: WAHIS six-monthly reports, 2019

Surveillance would benefit from further improvement

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is as follows:



Percentage of Members with a Level of Advancement of 3 or more for each of the 6 Critical Competencies relevant to surveillance Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies II.1.A., II.1.B., II.2., II.5.A., II.5.B., II.8. from the 6th edition of the <u>PVS Tool</u>



i.e. reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for all 6 Critical Competencies relevant to surveillance

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Clarify guidance for completing six-monthly reports in WAHIS.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.
- Explore how to collect more data about the performance of national Reference Laboratories.

Members

- Invest in training and resources, including diagnostic capacity, to boost national surveillance programmes for WOAH-listed diseases.
- Report the diagnosis of listed diseases to WOAH.
- Ensure that six-monthly reports are completed accurately.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Transparency of Veterinary Services

Transparency is important for Veterinary Services to effectively limit the spread of diseases, facilitate the safe trade of animals and animal products, and enable cooperation on global issues. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards related to transparency, including disease notifications. Through its Annual Report, the Observatory intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

The time between disease confirmation and notification (reporting gap) is often significant

of immediate notifications of listed diseases

are submitted to WOAH within 24 hours of disease confirmation, as required by the standards.

between 2

are reported and 30 days after disease confirmation

are reported more than after disease confirmation

The reporting gap, however, varies greatly across regions and disease types



Median time between the confirmation and reporting of WOAH-listed terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases (reporting gap) by region

Source: WAHIS immediate notification dataset, 2005-2021

Most PVS mission reports are made available



Most Members have adequate capacity related to transparency

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions.

> of Members reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency on transparency

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 42 Members. 2016-2021 - Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competency IV-6. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

Yet, transparency about antimicrobial use (AMU) remains low Only



of Members that submit an annual report on AMU to WOAH also publish a national report on AMU



World Organisation for Animal Health

- Encourage and support Members to notify diseases in a transparent and timely manner.
- Encourage increased transparency of PVS reports.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

Members

- Reduce the time between the diagnostic confirmation of an • outbreak and notification to WOAH.
- Consider making PVS reports publicly available, or alternatively, • available to WOAH partners and donors.
- Advocate for increased transparency at the decision-making level.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Self-declarations of animal health status

Members of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) can self-declare the animal health status of their territory (country, zone or compartment) in line with WOAH standards. They can have their self-declarations published on WOAH's website to increase their visibility. Yet, these self-declarations cannot relate to the six diseases subject to official status recognition. Through its Annual Report, the Observatory presents a selection of data that contributes to monitoring the uptake of these standards and the use of self-declarations by Members.

The use of self-declarations has increased in recent years



However, this service is not used to its full capacity

Most Members self-declare



Source: self-declaration dataset and WAHIS six-monthly reports, 2nd semester 2019

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Identify and address the challenges that prevent Members from using the self-declaration service to its full capacity.
- Continue to improve the process of managing, storing, displaying and tracking self-declarations.
- Promote the benefits of issuing self-declarations.

Members

- Engage with stakeholders and policymakers to increase the use of self-declarations.
- Consider submitting self-declarations for diseases absent from the territory, including aquatic animal diseases.
- Consider submitting self-declarations for zones and compartments.



Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Movement control inside countries/territories and precautions at borders

The movement of animals and animal products is a major contributor to the spread of animal diseases. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards for movement management, including quarantine and border security measures. These are crucial to control the spread of diseases within a territory and across borders. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

The implementation of movement control is increasing slowly but steadily



Overall, Members have limited capacity regarding movement control within and across their borders

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is:



- Better link PVS mission findings and WAHIS data to identify gaps and improve data quality.
- Promote movement control through advocacy and capacity building.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.
- Consider better describing the control measures and how some are interconnected (e.g. movement control as a prerequisite to zoning).
- Further implement WOAH standards on movement control to better contain diseases.
- Combine several control measures for higher efficiency (e.g. zoning and movement control) and ensure their appropriate reporting in WAHIS, in accordance with the standards.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Zoning and compartmentalisation

The international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) for zoning and compartmentalisation support Members in preventing and controlling disease spread and contribute to ensuring safe trade of animals and related commodities. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

A growing number of Members are reporting the application of zoning but effective implementation remains challenging



A limited number of Members report applying compartmentalisation for at least one disease but there is a slight increasing trend



Percentage of Members that report applying compartmentalisation for at least one disease

Members' capacity regarding zoning and compartmentalisation remains limited

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is:

> **200**// Zoning



Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies IV-7.

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Further clarify that the absence of a disease from one or several zones should only be reported if zoning measures are in place.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

Members

- Implement zoning together with movement control.
- Consider further implementing zoning and compartmentalisation standards.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Emergency preparedness

When an animal health or welfare emergency occurs, the effectiveness of the response depends on the level of preparedness of the Veterinary Authority and relevant stakeholders. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards and guidelines for emergency preparedness, including contingency plans and simulation exercises. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

The use of contingency plans varies across regions



The reporting of simulation exercises is not yet a widespread practice

Only of Members reported having conducted a simulation exercise

Source: WOAH simulation exercise dataset, 2002-2021

More than

simulation exercises were reported between 2002 and 2021

34 of them were conducted in **Europe and the Americas.**

of contingency plans and simulation exercises relate to terrestrial animal diseases, mainly avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and African swine fever.

Disease-free status is not associated with having a

Emergency preparedness activities undertaken by Members could be improved

Not all Members with contingency plans conduct simulation exercises

contingency plan or reporting simulation exercises African swine fever (ASF) Classical swine fever (CSF) African swine fever (ASF) Classical swine fever (CSF) of the Members with an of the Members of the Members with of the Members with Case active self-declaration with an official a contingency plan a contingency plan of ASF freedom status have a studies have conducted have conducted have a contingency plan and contingency plan and a recent simulation exercise a recent simulation exercise conducted a recent simulation conducted a recent exercise simulation exercise

Sources: WOAH review, 2018: WOAH simulation exercise dataset, 2002-2021

Members' capacity regarding emergency preparedness is limited

Emergency

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, the percentage of Members which reached or exceeded the minimal capacity is as follows:

+ Emergency funding Emergency response funding response

Emergency

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Raise awareness on the importance of emergency preparedness.
- Offer dedicated capacity building activities. •
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

Members

 Identify and invest resources to better prepare for animal health emergencies.

s for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competencies II-9. and II.6. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

- Conduct regular simulation exercises, following the principles developed in WOAH Guidelines for Simulation Exercises.
- Report simulation exercises to WOAH to increase their visibility.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance

As misuse and overuse of antimicrobials can lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards on their responsible and prudent use in animals. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

Critically important antimicrobials are still being used as growth promoters in animals

Antimicrobials listed as 'veterinary critically important antimicrobial agents' by WOAH

Antimicrobials listed as 'highest priority critically important for human medicine' by the World Health Organization (WHO)



Percentage of Members using critically important antimicrobials as growth promoters in animals Source: ANIMUSE Global Database, 2020-2021

An increasing number of Members are implementing national strategies against AMR

Around of Members implement and/or monitor a National Action Plan on AMR (AMR-NAP) in the animal sector



This figure is 3 times higher than it was in 2016, the year after the launch of the Global Action Plan on AMR



- No AMR-NAP
- AMR-NAP under development
- AMR-NAP developed
- AMR-NAP developed and implemented
- AMR-NAP developed, implemented and monitored

Percentage of Members with different levels of development of their AMR-NAP

Source: Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS), 2016-2021

AMR national surveillance systems need to be further developed

Almost

of Members do not have an animal AMR surveillance system

Other Members have surveillance systems at various stages of development.

For instance, **44% of them** conduct systematic data collection and monitor levels of AMR, with laboratories that follow quality assurance processes. Less than half of Members have an integrated multisectoral surveillance system for AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU) in place



Training on AMR is widespread across Members

Over **OVE OVE OVE** of Members provide training on AMR and AMU in the veterinary sector

either through ad hoc courses, core curricula for graduating veterinary professionals or continuing professional training.



Core curricula for graduating veterinary professionals + continuing professional training

Members' AMR training and professional education in the veterinary sector

Data on AMU are available in the factsheet of the 6th Annual Report on antimicrobial use in animals published in June 2022.

Source: TrACSS, 2020-2021

Recommendations

- Advocate for the responsible use of antimicrobials by the private and public sectors.
- Reinforce capacity building activities on AMR and AMU.

Members

- Stop using antimicrobials as animal growth promoters if they are listed by WHO or WOAH as critically important.
- Members using other antimicrobials as growth promoters are encouraged to systematically accompany their use with a risk analysis, in line with WOAH's recommendations.
- Implement and monitor a National Action Plan on AMR and improve surveillance systems.
- Provide continuing professional training on AMR and AMU.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Implementation of the One Health approach

The 'One Health' approach recognises that human, animal and plant health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems they inhabit. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) promotes this concept through its own work and initiatives with other international organisations. Through its Annual Report, the Observatory intends to provide an overview of the uptake of the One Health approach by WOAH Members.

A significant number of diseases notified to WOAH are zoonotic

of all immediate notifications of WOAH-listed diseases are for zoonoses

The annual percentage between 2005 and 2021 ranges from 25% to 47%, with peaks coinciding with major episodes of avian influenza.



of WOAH-listed are zoonoses

Source: WAHIS immediate notifications, 2005-2021

Most emerging diseases reported to WOAH are considered to have an impact on public health



Breakdown of the 166 immediate notifications of emerging diseases reported between 2005 and 2021.

In 2021, all immediate notifications for emerging diseases with a public health impact were related to SARS-CoV-2 infections in animals.

Source: WAHIS immediate notifications, 2005-2021

Collaboration between the public health and animal health sectors has improved

of Members have organised IHR-PVS* National Bridging Workshops (NBW) between 2014 and 2021 to assess and enhance multisectoral collaboration

*IHR-PVS: International Health Regulations (WHO) – Performance of Veterinary Services (WOAH)



Number of IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops organised in WOAH regions Source: IHR/PVS NBW data, 2014-2021

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual number of workshops organised is increasing.

Members have capacity to coordinate resources and activities under the **One Health approach**

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions,

of Members reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency related to external coordination capability, including the One Health approach.

This notably shows their capacity to work with other government authorities involved in the health sector.

-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 – Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competency II.6.B. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Promote the need, interest and best practices to collect more information on the implementation of the One Health approach.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

Members

- Progressively expand and implement the One Health approach and multisectoral coordination to all relevant activities.
- Understand the benefits of organising an IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshop to develop a national roadmap for intersectoral coordination.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.



Animal welfare

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards on animal welfare to support Members to improve how they handle terrestrial and aquatic animals on farm, during transport, slaughter, killing for disease control purposes, as well as in research and for specific topics such as dog population management. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

An increasing number of national animal welfare regulations are being passed



Number of regulations related to animal welfare and trend line (dashed line)

Source: FAO legislative database (FAOLEX), 1996-2021

The implementation of standards on dog population management can be strengthened

TOUCH of Members did not estimate the number of stray dogs

according to surveys carried out in the European region and North Africa

of responding Members had dog population control programmes in place

of these programmes were monitored and evaluated





Percentage of Members implementing WOAH's recommendations related to stray dog management Source: stray dog surveys from WOAH Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, 2015-2021, 21 participating Members from the European region and North Africa

The capacity of Veterinary Services regarding animal welfare needs to be further improved

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions,

26% of ex

of Members have reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency related to animal welfare

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 — Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competency II.13. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Intensify efforts to collect animal welfare-related information to accurately assess Members' compliance with international standards.
- Understand the issues faced by Members when legislating and implementing animal welfare standards.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

Members

- Address the issues that prevent the regulation and implementation of animal welfare standards.
- Establish and/or strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.

