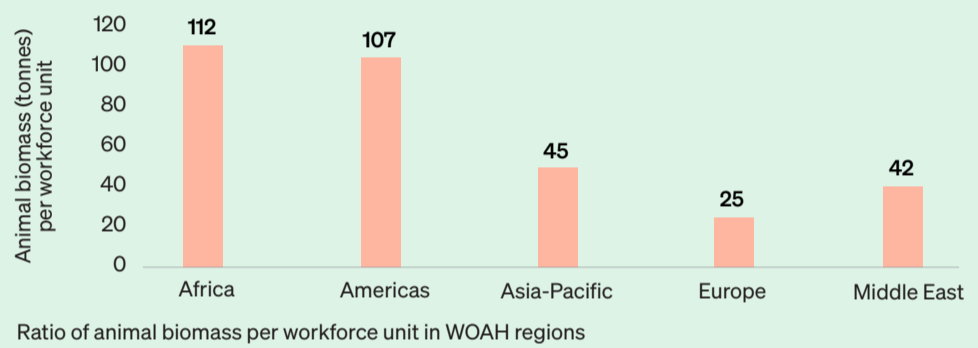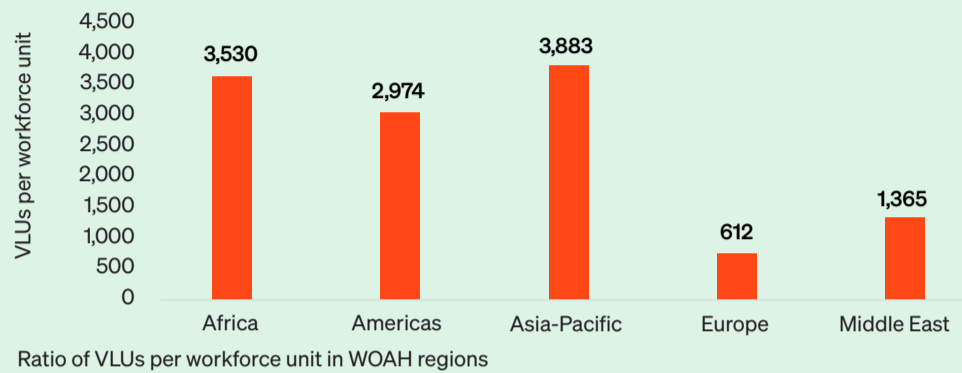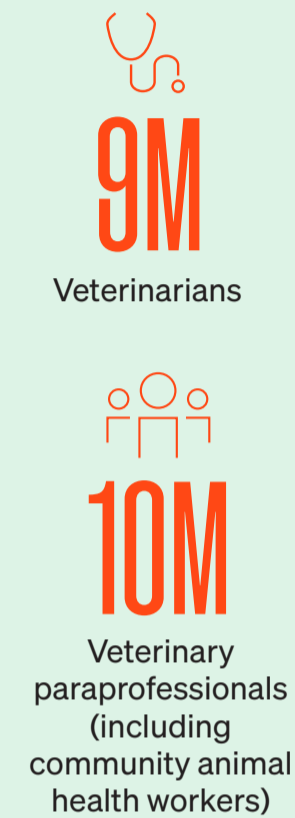# Veterinary Services' workforce and resources

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

Global animal health workforce

9M
Veterinarians

10M
Veterinary paraprofessionals (including community animal health workers)

On average,
1 workforce unit is employed

for every
2,611 veterinary livestock units (VLUs)

and
55 tonnes of animal biomass

VLUs per workforce unit
- Africa: 3,530
- Americas: 2,974
- Asia-Pacific: 3,883
- Europe: 612
- Middle East: 1,365

Ratio of VLUs per workforce unit in WOAH regions

Animal biomass (tonnes) per workforce unit
- Africa: 112
- Americas: 107
- Asia-Pacific: 45
- Europe: 25
- Middle East: 42

Ratio of animal biomass per workforce unit in WOAH regions

Source: WAHIS annual reports, 2019

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:

Staffing		Professional competencies			Funding		Veterinary Statutory Body	
Veterinarians and other professionals	Veterinary paraprofessionals and others	Veterinarians	Veterinary paraprofessionals	Physical resources	Operational	Emergency	Authority	Capacity
49%	56%	58%	67%	44%	42%	49%	47%	16%

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 I.1.A., I.1.B., I.2.A., I.2.B., I.7., I.8., I.9., III.5.A., III.5.B. from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

Only 7% of these Members have overall sufficient workforce capacity

(i.e. reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for all 9 Critical Competencies related to workforce and resources)

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- 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.

Members

- 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