



WOAH's epidemic intelligence for decision making

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1. Epidemic intelligence and WOAH's mission of transparency

HPAI events are kept secret fearing
for consequences and no one
knows

Gaps in information



Media talking about HPAI
spread between mammals
based on a hypothesis
before scientific
confirmation

Misinformation

Deliberate release of false
information on fake HPAI
events to create panic

Disinformation

Imagine a world where...

Countries do early detection but...

Do not systematically share official information

How to do risk assessment on
disease spread?



How to prepare and
respond quickly?

How to avoid panic?

1924:

The founding Members entrusted WOAHA with the mission of ensuring transparency of the global animal disease situation and committed themselves to the legal obligation to report

One source of information?

Possible gaps when relying on official notification only:

E.g.

Significant HPAI wild bird mortality event in a country

National Focal Point in charge of notification has been recently appointed and does not understand that wildlife is in the scope of mandatory reporting

WOAH not aware, information not confirmed with official authorities and not communicated to the public

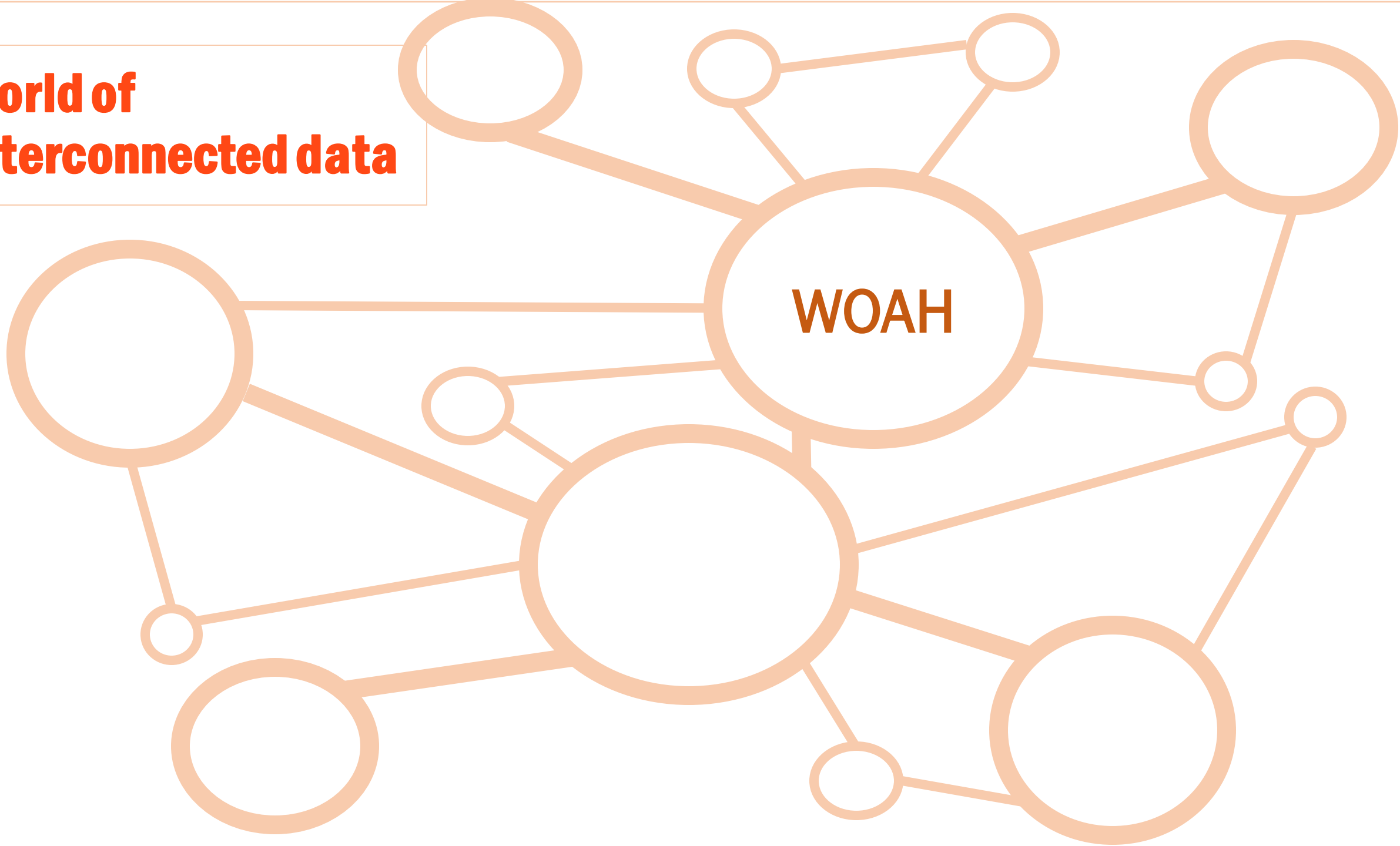


That is why, 20 years ago, WOAHA Members gave the organisation the mandate of conducting epidemic intelligence

Epidemic intelligence

“Cycle of **organised and systematic collection**, analysis and interpretation of **information from all sources** to enhance early detection of health events and early warning for timely response, based on an adequate assessment of the associated risk”

**World of
interconnected data**

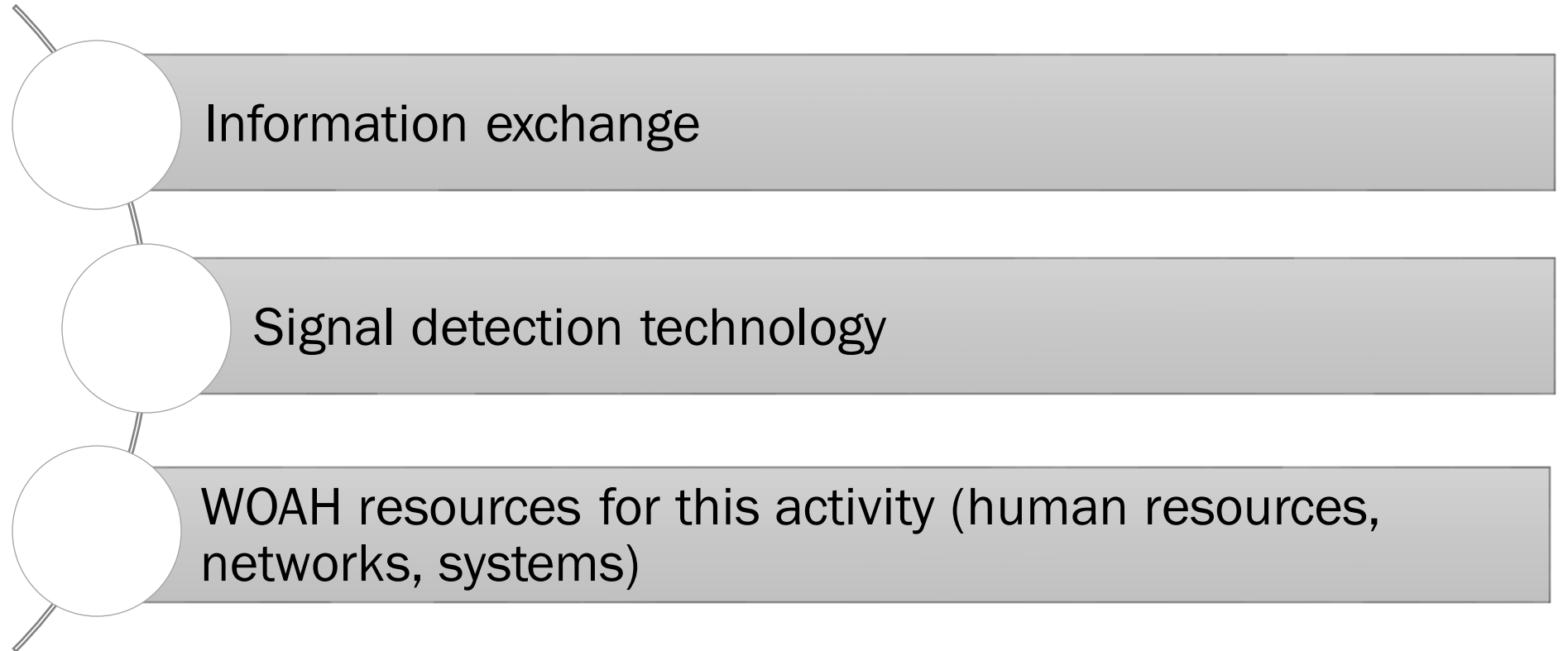
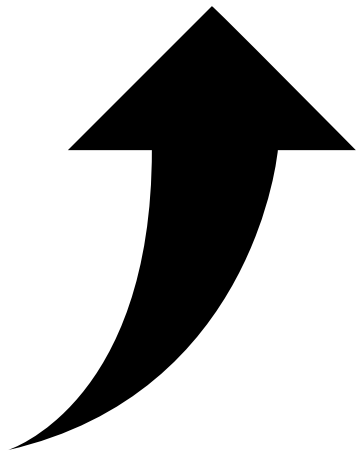


World of interconnected data

- In today's world, information systems are highly **interconnected** and **interdependent**
- Systems have different scopes and processes, which leads to **specific limitations and added values**
- **Crossing information** provides a more accurate picture of reality
- WOAHA and its Members are a key source of information for other systems & other systems are of primary importance for **cross-checking** the information received at WOAHA
- Data exchange is also essential for analysis and **information for decision makers**

Fast evolution of epidemic intelligence in WOAAH

20 years of



2. How WOAHA is using epidemic intelligence for early detection and warning

Typology of sources considered within epidemic intelligence in WOAAH

In 2022 – information collected on 120 listed diseases and 4 emerging diseases

182

Members reporting information through WAHIS

120 000

Signals detected through **web scraping**

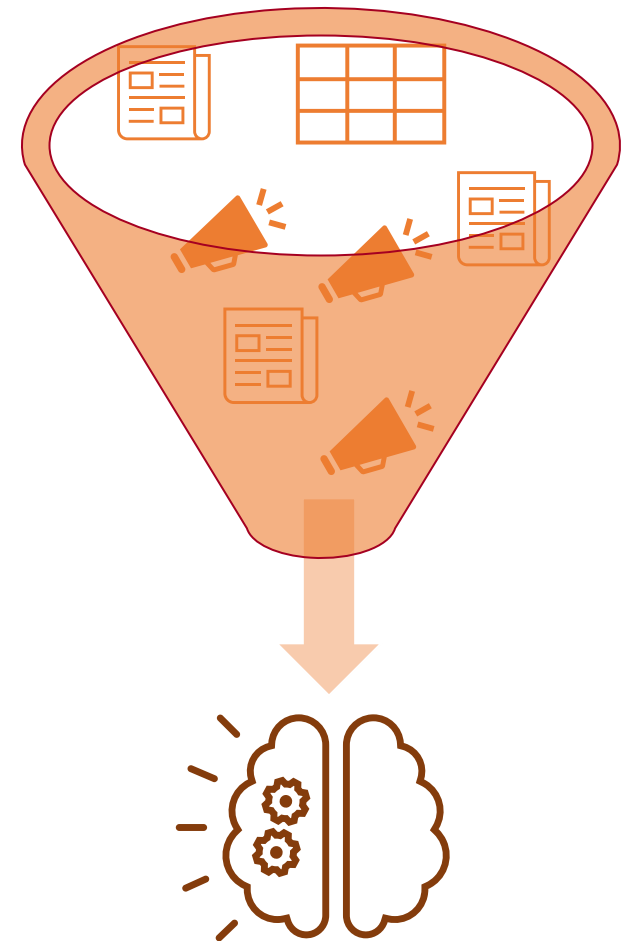
334

Reference Centers sharing information with WOAAH

& **WOAH network of partners** with regular or ad hoc information exchange

How do we get the useful information from all the signals?

- **WOAH standards** defines information related to stable situations vs **exceptional events**
- Internal process to **treat signals of unofficial information**
- Systematic **validation of information with Members**
- WOAH **gets support from its network of experts** to understand and communicate on disease situations
- Consider contextual data, drivers' data & indirect signals to **assess risks**



Value of the types of sources considered within epidemic intelligence in WOAAH

Examples for HPAI in 2022

183

Alerts **spontaneously submitted** by National Authorities

8

Alerts submitted by National Authorities after WOAAH request based on **web scraping**

22

Meetings between WOAAH and OFFLU **expert network** to discuss One Health epidemiological information including molecular and vaccination issues

12

Meetings of **FAO-WOAH-WHO** Global Early Warning System for health threats and emerging risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interface

3. What decisions can be taken based on this information?

For Members

- **National authorities** can take decisions and implement actions to assess risk, get prepared to avoid spread of pathogens or mitigate event introduction
- **Private sector**, for example designing Poultry Insurance Scheme

Simulation exercise: Avian Influenza in Nicaragua

 Published on 17 February 2023

For WOAAH

- **Preparedness:** identification of threats and needs for urgent regional & global coordination, guidance to Members
- Periodical re-assessment of the priorities and **needs for updates** of Standards, guidance, activities, and processes



The screenshot shows the WOAH website with the following content:

- Logo:** World Organisation for Animal Health, Founded as OIE.
- Breadcrumbs:** Home > Projects > GF-TADs > GFTADs News > First meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza.
- Section:** AVIAN INFLUENZA.
- Headline:** First meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza.
- Video Grid:** A grid of video thumbnails from the meeting, including participants from Mexico (MEX), Singapore (SGCAN), Colombia (CO), Uruguay (Uru), and Chile (CHL).

For WOAH partners



- **Early warning & response,**
WOAH linking with
INTERPOL
- **Intersectoral collaboration**
(One Health)

For the general public

- WOAH provides **reference information**
- Fights **against misinformation / disinformation**

New outbreaks and associated subtypes

During the period covered by this report, a total of 37 new outbreaks in poultry were reported by 14 countries (Bolivia, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Nepal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

WAHIS

HOME >> ANIMAL DISEASE EVENTS

Events management

Filters



3. Conclusions

Conclusions

- WOAHA maintains its **role and responsibility** in publishing **only the reference information validated by official authorities**
- Comparison with other sources allows to **identify data limitations** and WOAHA & Members can act
- WOAHA provides **context to the information** presented (stable situations vs exceptional events)
- 20 years of epidemic intelligence evolution in WOAHA, going towards **One Health Epidemic Intelligence?**
- Essential for early detection, warning and allowing all actors to implement **timely decisions to reduce disease impacts**



Thank you

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Canada 





**Tackling shared threats for a safer
world**

#WOAHGlobalConference

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