



ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

The humans behind animal health



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



EDITORIAL

“The veterinary workforce plays a key role in the global One Health agenda”

Monique Éloit, Director General

In our interconnected world, no single organisation can tackle global health challenges on its own. In 2022, WOAHA joined forces with partner organisations to implement a global One Health agenda. In this approach, the veterinary workforce plays an essential role.

C OVID-19, Ebola, SARS... The pandemics we had to face over the past decades consistently demonstrated that we need strong international collaboration to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health threats. These pandemics have something else in common: all of them originated in animals. For the sake of animal health, for our economies and communities that depend on animals, and for our own health as humans, the veterinary workforce has a key role to play in all endeavours against zoonoses, and pandemics in general.

Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response with a One Health approach

In 2022, WOAHA actively engaged in major initiatives in the field of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. A [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#) was launched by the Quadripartite collaboration (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Program, World Health Organization and WOAHA), to integrate systems and capacity so that we can better tackle health threats collectively. It is based on a concept that is more relevant than ever: human, animal and plant health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist.

WOAHA worked with its international partners to outline a five-year plan (2022-2026) for One Health, focusing on six areas:



capacities for health systems resilience,



emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics,



endemic zoonotic diseases, and neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases,



food safety risks,



antimicrobial resistance,



the environment.

Taking a closer look at the six areas of our five-year plan for One Health, one can notice the strong link between each of these challenges and animal health and welfare. While animals can be vectors of diseases and are at the heart of our food safety issues, they can also greatly contribute to human health and well-being and be victims of antimicrobial resistance. Ensuring our health starts with ensuring the health of animals.

The One Health approach draws lessons from the recent experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed weaknesses and fragmented or insufficient investments in tools and systems to manage health emergencies. **The One Health approach provides a framework for guidance and technical assistance to countries, international partners, as well as non-governmental organisations and academia. It promotes cooperation across countries and sectors, while it also engages communities to find solutions and develop new tools and technologies for prevention, preparedness and response to health threats.** It is also a tool for the international community to support countries, and strengthen their capacity to face future health threats. Global health security is a public good, requiring investment at local, regional and country levels.

Our agenda for the veterinary workforce

● **September 2023**

United Nations General Assembly High Level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

● **January 2024**

Kick off of WOAHA's 100th Anniversary campaign

● **September 2024**

United Nations General Assembly High Level meeting on antimicrobial resistance



US\$ 1.4 billion

in financial commitments where already made to the Pandemic Fund as of May 2023.

Providing the financial means to accomplish our goals

Without steady financial investment, the One Health approach cannot ensure lasting impact. One of the new financial tools is the Pandemic Fund, launched in November 2022, during the G20 Conference. The fund is hosted by the World Bank, with WHO as a technical lead. It opened its first call for proposals right after the conference, and already received over US\$ 1.4 billion in financial commitments. WOAHA acts as an observer at the Pandemic Fund board, while providing continuous technical support to Veterinary Services and fostering collaborative actions with their counterparts in ministries of health and environment to submit joint proposals for the Fund.

WOAHA is also actively involved in the discussions pertaining to the development of a new international agreement, known as the Pandemic instrument, which is currently being negotiated and expected to be agreed upon in May 2024 by the World Health Assembly.

Now that One Health is well recognised as the way to collectively and effectively address health threats at the animal-human-environment interface, and that the governance structure and funding mechanisms are underway, it is time to move to practical actions.

WOAHA reiterates its clear message: the veterinary workforce is on the front line for implementing the One Health approach to preventing zoonotic diseases, protecting human health and ensuring food security, among other goals. In 2023, WOAHA will continue advocating for a better recognition of the veterinary workforce as a key actor of global health policies.

Because animal health is our health. It's everyone's health. ●

Empowering the veterinary workforce

Animal health is everyone's health. This is not just our motto: animal, human and plant health are interconnected in a way that a health threat to one becomes a threat to all; and animals are crucial to human well-being and livelihoods. For this reason, the veterinary workforce has a key role to play in improving global health. In 2022, we pursued our mission to help our Members empower their veterinary workforce, for everyone's benefit.

Pandemic risk is at an all-time high in a globalised world, affected by climate change. In this context, the veterinary workforce is at the forefront of the fight against animal diseases, whether they are zoonoses that can affect human health directly, or diseases that can decimate livestock, wildlife or aquatic species and thus impact on animal welfare and human livelihoods. We provide resources, tools and training to empower the veterinary workforce in all countries.

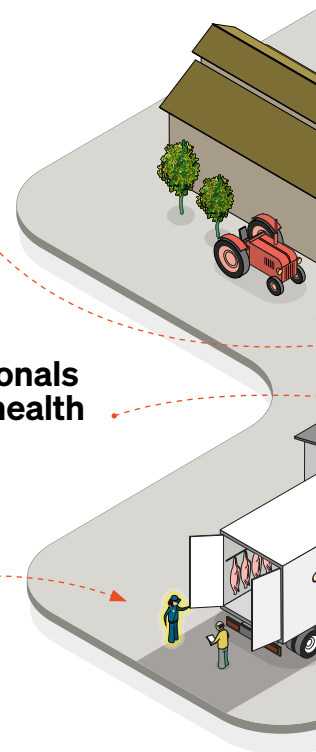
From knowledge-sharing to capacity building: our 2022 support

Because we are stronger together, and because diseases know no borders, empowering the veterinary workforce also means encouraging common work by fostering the creation of networks between countries. To stimulate knowledge-sharing on global issues such as antimicrobial resistance, WOAAH also collects and analyses data from Members. In 2022, we published the first [Observatory Annual Report](#) on the implementation of our international standards, to gain perspective on global challenges and provide the best possible service to our Members.

**Veterinarians
in the field**

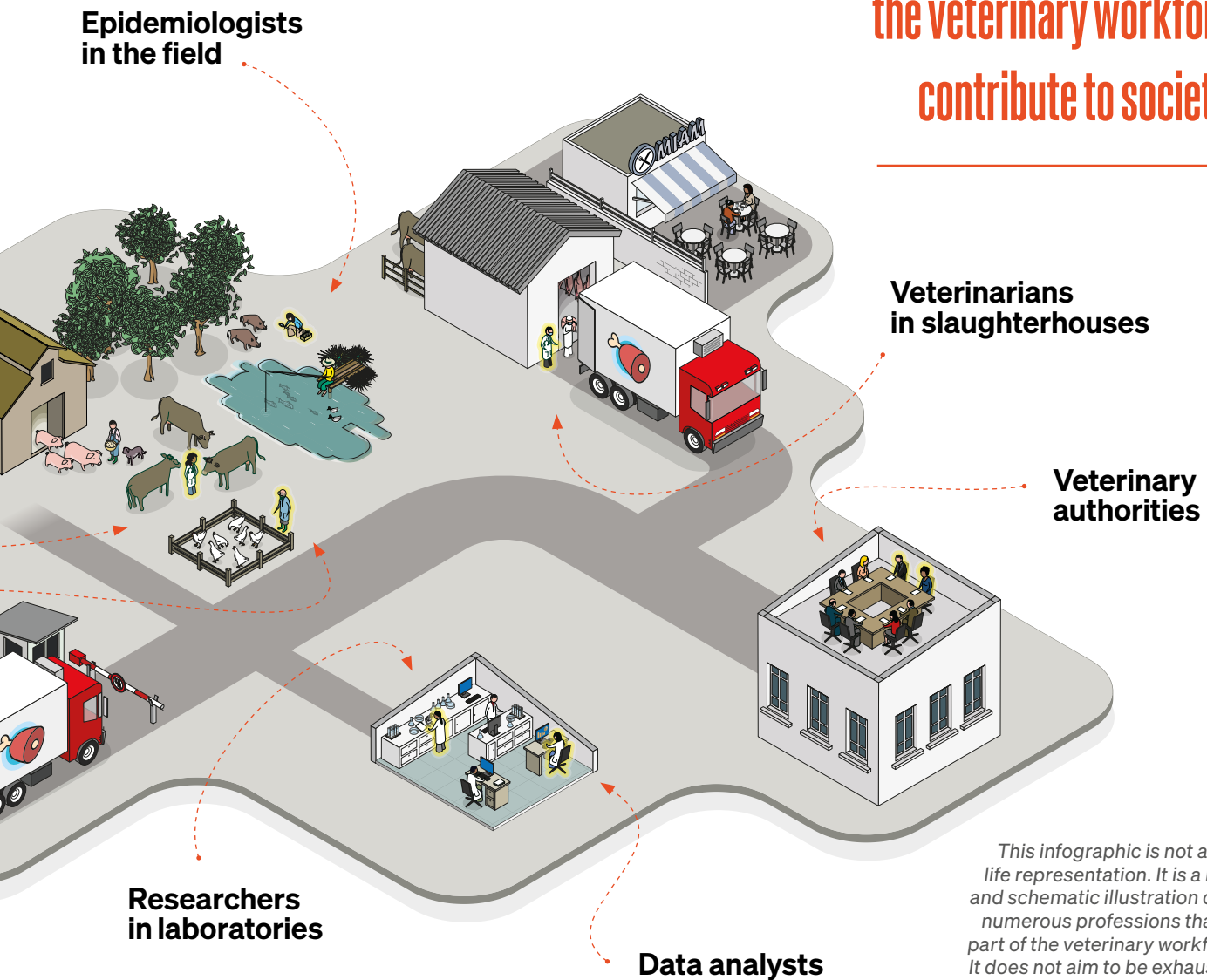
**Veterinary paraprofessionals
and community animal health
workers in the field**

**Veterinarians
at border control**



We also continued to foster proximity with first-line stakeholders in the fight against animal diseases by offering digital support, accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world. Because we recognise that the increased opportunities for interactions between humans, domesticated animals and livestock mean a higher risk of pathogens spillover, we also supported Members in enhancing their early-warning and surveillance systems. In 2022, we continued encouraging the creation of innovative solutions that stimulate cross-sectoral collaborations, give a central role to the veterinary workforce and involve local populations.


How does the veterinary workforce contribute to society?



This infographic is not a real-life representation. It is a basic and schematic illustration of the numerous professions that are part of the veterinary workforce. It does not aim to be exhaustive.


49,147
 million
 livestock animals

1 
 workforce unit
 is employed
 for every 2,611 cattle

19 
 million people
 form the global
 veterinary workforce

A limited number of WOAH Members have a veterinary workforce with access to sufficient resources.

Source: Observatory Annual Report, 2022



ARTICLE

ANIMUSE: monitoring antimicrobial use in animals

***“If you can’t measure it,
you can’t manage it.”***

Data scientists’ favourite motto applies to one of the most pressing global challenges of our times: antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In 2022, WOHAH launched its new digital platform, ANIMUSE. Its aim: to help curb AMR through better monitoring of antimicrobial use in animals.

92

countries

had already reported data on
ANIMUSE as of February 2023

Joining forces to fight AMR

In November 2022, ministers of Health, Agriculture, and policymakers from all over the world gathered in Muscat, Oman, for the Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance. Two of the agreed key targets concern exclusively the agri-food sector:

- **Reduce the total amount of antimicrobials** used in animals and agriculture by at least 30-50% by 2030, galvanising national and global efforts.
- **Preserve critically important antimicrobials for human medicine**, ending the use of medically important antimicrobials for non-veterinary medical use, including growth promotion in animals.

ANIMUSE plays a key role in our support to Members to reach these targets, by helping the veterinary workforce understand and monitor antimicrobial use in a harmonised and comparable way, across time and, eventually, across sectors as well.

Since 2015, Veterinary Services from all over the world have been reporting to WOHAH information on antimicrobials use in animals in their country. To facilitate access to this crucial and growing set of information, the database has recently been fully digitalised.

In 2022, the new online platform on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, ANIMUSE, started to be tested by countries ahead of the public launch, foreseen in 2023. It features easier reporting, error checks, and data visualisation tools to facilitate analysis and communication. Ultimately, it aims to improve practices of the veterinary workforce with regard to antimicrobial use.

Providing user-friendly analysis of antimicrobial use

Dr Carolee Carlson, a veterinarian and epidemiologist for the Public Health Agency of Canada, has participated in the development of the new platform. She was among the first experts to test it and appreciate its benefits.

“ANIMUSE will facilitate our work in many ways. It collects enough information to be useful, but not too much to be overwhelming. I can retrieve all the data I uploaded in the past years, compare them, see where Canada ranks and our trends over time. The error detection tool is very precious, particularly for such complex data as these, coming from a variety of sources.”

“The platform is very helpful, because it allows a much faster import and use of the data”, says Dr Slobodanka Božić, WOHAH’s focal point on veterinary products for Bosnia and Herzegovina. “The platform is handy to create user-friendly presentations for ministries and other key stakeholders. Our country doesn’t have a national action plan on antimicrobial resistance yet, so better data communication is a key tool to raise awareness on this issue.”

The ANIMUSE platform will be open to public navigation in 2023. ●

➤ **Read the full article on our 2022 Activity Report website:**
www.report2022.woah.org

Expertise networks: “We are the eyes and ears on animal influenza”



Expertise networks bring together renowned scientists to help countries tackle health challenges. OFFLU is one of them. Created jointly by WOA and FAO, it fosters collaboration on animal influenza. Professor Ian Brown tells us more about this network.

Professor Ian Brown is a virologist and scientific services director at the Animal and Plant Health Agency of the United Kingdom. He is currently chairing the OFFLU steering committee.

Why did WOA and FAO create an expertise network on animal influenza?

Ian Brown. In the early 2000s, the international community recognised the emerging challenge of one of the animal influenza diseases: avian influenza. As specialists of the disease, we faced huge demand for our expertise and support. **We felt we needed to coordinate our efforts and form a critical mass that spoke with one voice.** OFFLU was created as an independent scientific network jointly by WOA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In 2022, there was a global surge in [avian influenza](#) which is still ongoing: OFFLU is more needed than ever to share and capitalise on existing knowledge of the disease.

What kind of support can the expertise network provide to countries that are not yet equipped to fight the disease?

I.B. The expertise network positioned itself as a central repository and go-to place for stakeholders to come to with all their questions. We also act as a resource for WOA and FAO to develop recommendations and set best practices.

Who are the experts behind OFFLU?

I.B. We are an open network, so by definition, we do not exclude anyone. At first, we were no more than about ten research laboratories. As we developed capability in regions, more partners have joined OFFLU. **They are comprised of research scientists and diagnosticians, but they also carry expertise on epidemiology, surveillance, health and safety professionals, veterinarians...**

Do you speak collectively or as individual scientists?

I.B. We do both, as long as we keep our impartiality. For example, we are currently working on an initiative to map all the variations in viruses causing avian influenza. Our report will be available to the international community to think of the best choice in vaccines for poultry. Our data is useful because it is impartially gathered. Our parent organisations, WOA and FAO, preserve our scientific freedom of speech. ●

➔ [Read the full article on our 2022 Activity Report website: www.report2022.woah.org](http://www.report2022.woah.org)

ARTICLE

Scaling up our digital capacity building support

To which degree have digital capacity building activities become an asset for the veterinary workforce in the post-COVID era? In 2022, WOAAH significantly increased its use of hybrid formats, offering blended virtual and face-to-face activities for users. Beneficiaries across regions, from the United Arab Emirates to Argentina, testify to the efficiency and utility of this approach.



August 2022: Scientists of the ADAFSA Laboratory, WOAAH's Collaborating Centre for Quality Management Systems in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), met for the very first time with independent experts after initial remote conversations. The goal: to assess the capacity of their national veterinary laboratory network. This [Sustainable Laboratories mission](#)—an option proposed through WOAAH's [Performance of Veterinary Services \(PVS\) Pathway](#)—was transformed into a hybrid virtual and face-to-face activity to meet urgent capacity development needs in the wake of the pandemic.

“The hybrid PVS mission helped us look deep into our functions”

Paving the way for physical meetings in 2022, the initial round of consultations between laboratory members and experts initiated a data collection process as early as April. This wider time-frame, compared with traditional PVS missions, ensured maximum availability of all participants, and was a pivotal factor in the success of the mission.

“[The hybrid format] provided an opportunity to evaluate the efficiency and sustainability of our laboratory system and to get more information, knowledge and feedback from the experts”, says Dr Asma Mohammed, Director of the ADAFSA Veterinary Laboratories. *“It was the best way to involve our lab team without affecting our workflow”.*

The data collection tool provided by WOAAH allowed participants to visualise and evaluate their own data immediately. It offered them the opportunity to *“look deep into [their] functions”*, making the subsequent assessment and recommendation phases more relevant.

Providing Members with actionable information to improve animal health

With the support of WOAAH's PVS experts both online and face-to-face, UAE's participants made significant advances in capitalising on their unique expertise in camel diseases such as [Middle East respiratory syndrome \(MERS\)](#), [peste de petits ruminants \(PPR\)](#) and [brucellosis](#). Knowing the scientific importance of reliable diagnosis of these diseases and its commercial potential at a global scale, Dr Mohammed's team now aims to become a certified provider of proficiency testing schemes.

The participants also initiated a partnership with national academic institutions to launch histopathology kits for training purposes. Thanks to samples collected for over twenty years during post-mortem analyses of camels, the participants were able to fill the gap in commercially available histopathology slides for camel diseases, and

The PVS Sustainable Laboratories Mission provides in-depth analysis of the pertinence, efficiency, and sustainability of the national laboratory network, including an appropriate balance of personnel, infrastructure, equipment and operational resources, based on national diagnostic needs.



supply university students with this specific training material. **PVS experts spearheaded the idea to create digital kits to be deployed globally, providing a state-of-the-art training tool for universities worldwide and a financial investment for ADAFSA Laboratories.**

Capacity building at a regional level through hybrid training

A similar hybrid approach was chosen for the 2022 training session on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) organised as part of the [“Working Together to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance”](#) Tripartite Project, funded by the European Union. The training was delivered by the ANLIS-Malbrán Institute of Argentina, a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization (WHO). **Participants from several countries in the Americas addressed the theoretical aspects of AMR during nine virtual sessions before putting their new capacities to the test during a three-day intensive practical workshop.**

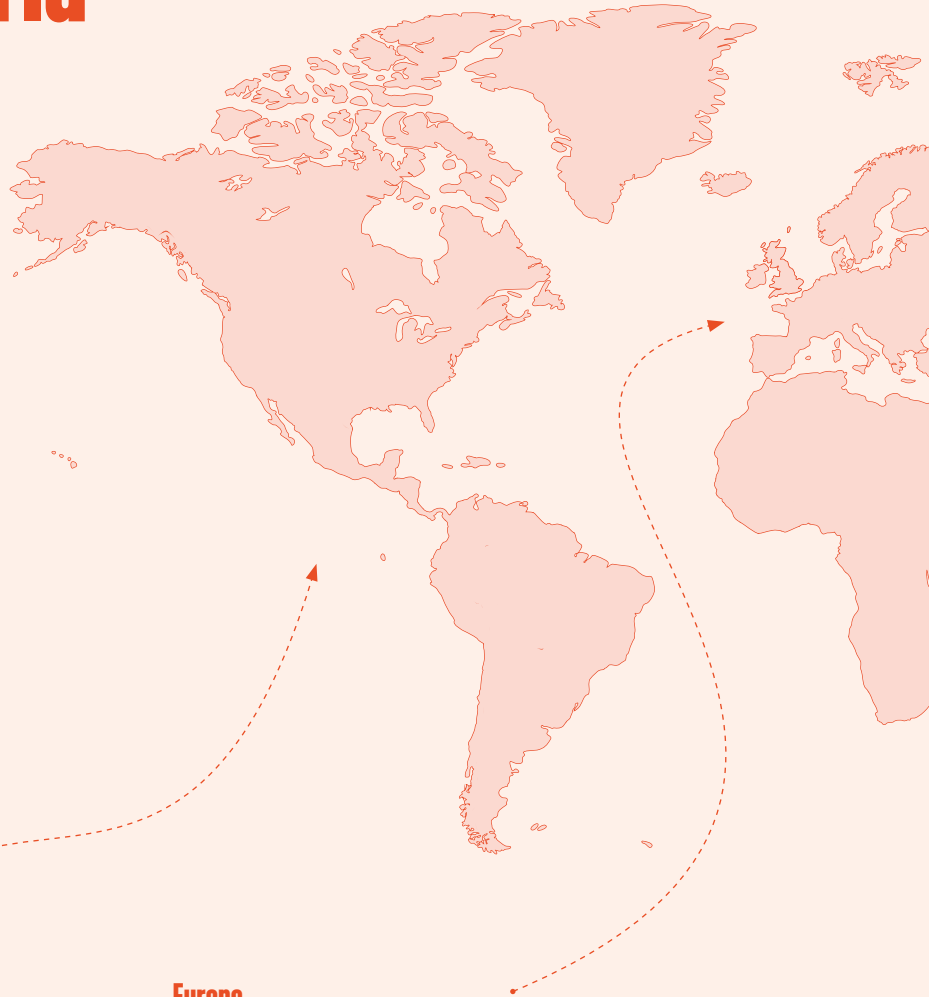
Training the veterinary workforce beyond borders

Because the continuous and agile training of the veterinary workforce is an essential part of improving animal health globally, WOAAH intends to pursue hybrid PVS missions in the future. **Simultaneously, it keeps on providing quality capacity building activities to all its Members: in 2022, its online [training portal](#) continued offering free resources, activities and discussions to animal health stakeholders worldwide.** Moreover, over 25 new modules are currently under development, covering areas such as emergency management, wildlife trade and surveillance, and leadership in Veterinary Services. Some of them will be part of the organisation's online training catalogue in 2023. ●

➔ [Read the full article on our 2022 Activity Report website: www.report2022.woah.org](http://www.report2022.woah.org)

2022 highlights around the world

True to its mandate, WOA^H contributed to the implementation of tailored initiatives in all regions throughout 2022 to help Members strengthen the veterinary workforce. Hybrid PVS missions, regional networks, alert games... Innovative methods were pioneered all around the world to improve animal health at a global scale.



Americas

A hybrid regional training on AMR

A capacity building training session on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was organised as part of the “Working Together to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance” Tripartite regional project. Participants from several countries in the Americas addressed the theoretical aspects of AMR during nine virtual sessions before putting their new capacities to the test during a three-day intensive practical workshop delivered at the ANLIS-Malbrán Institute of Argentina, a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization (WHO).

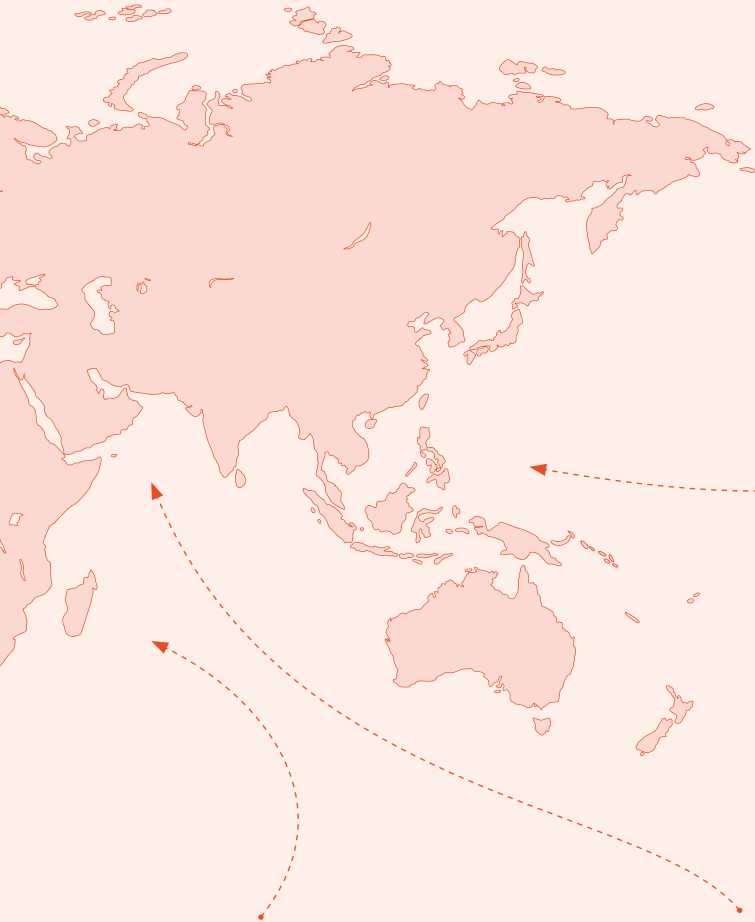
➤ **Read more:**
[Capacity building: scaling up WOA^H's digital support for the veterinary workforce](#)

Europe

A dedicated workshop to improve animal welfare during transport

A “Whole Journey Scenario” workshop brought together the key stakeholders of animal transport between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. This training was an opportunity to exchange best practices and to bridge the gaps between international regulations and the actual situation of animals during transport, in the framework of the animal welfare platform for Europe.

➤ **Read more:**
[Animal transport: implementing welfare regulations in the field](#)



Asia and the Pacific

An ongoing regional network for aquatic animal health

As part of the Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific, regional experts and Members regularly interact to share information regarding aquatic animal health issues. The aim of the regional network is also to strengthen laboratory capacity for aquatic animal disease activities, such as emergency responses to disease outbreaks.

➤ **Read more on our networks:**

[Expertise network: “We are the eyes and ears on animal influenza”](#)

Africa

An alert game to improve surveillance on Ebola

Because building preparedness from local to regional levels is key to prevent viral haemorrhagic fever outbreaks, WOAHA launched a new education game called “Alert” as part of the EBO-SURSY Project. The game provides players with the opportunity to increase their knowledge on their specific role in the alert and response chain—who to notify, and when—in a collaborative manner. Local communities that are trained on their role in the surveillance system can provide early warnings of pathogens spillovers from wildlife to the health workforce. They play a critical role in the early detection of diseases.

➤ **Read more:**

[Protecting wildlife health by enhancing surveillance systems](#)

Middle East

PVS missions: a hybrid format to increase efficiency

Scientists from the ADAFSA Laboratory, WOAHA’s Collaborating Centre for Quality Management Systems in the United Arab Emirates, participated in a hybrid virtual and face-to-face capacity building activity. An initial round of virtual consultations paved the way for physical meetings: a format which ensured maximum availability of participants and was identified as a pivotal factor in the success of the mission. *“It was the best way to involve our lab team without affecting our workflow”*, said Dr Asma Mohammed, Director of the ADAFSA Laboratory.

➤ **Read more:**

[Capacity building: scaling up WOAHA’s digital support for the veterinary workforce](#)

BROWSE OUR 2022 ACTIVITY REPORT:

www.report2022.woah.org

**Because animal health is our health.
It's everyone's health.**

#HumansBehindAnimalHealth

Follow us on social media:



@WOAH



@worldanimalhealth



www.woah.org/linkedin



@worldanimalhealth

www.woah.org



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE