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DIE

Objectives

The objective of this presentation is to explain the various activities and programmes that the DIE carries out to support its Members (especially the least developed countries) in the proper implementation of international standards, including those relating to animal identification and traceability, all of which bring benefits to DIE Members.

At present the DIE has 172 Member Countries and Territories, two thirds of which are developing countries or countries in transition.

For the DIE to achieve the objective within its broad mandate “to improve the health and the welfare of animals all over the world”, many DIE Members need technical, financial or structural support to enable them to comply with DIE standards and play an active part in the DIE standard-setting process. Through its collaboration with experts globally and with partners, including international donor organisations, the DIE can help to provide the help that Members request.

Discussion

In order to maintain close contacts with its Members and to understand their problems and needs, the DIE has set up permanent Regional or Subregional Representations in Bamako, Mali; Gaborone, Botswana; Tokyo, Japan; Bangkok, Thailand; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Panama City, Panama; Sofia, Bulgaria; Brussels, Belgium; Beirut, Lebanon and Tunis, Tunisia.

Under the coordination of DIE Headquarters, each of these Representations draws up an annual programme of activities aimed at building capacity for harmonising animal health policies worldwide, including traceability, making the necessary adaptations to the specific conditions of each region. In the main, these work programmes comprise capacity-building activities in support of national Veterinary Services.

The DIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, which is financed by a number of international donors, has as its major objective the support of these capacity-building activities, by means of global programmes and specific activities in each region in line with regional priorities. The Fund finances projects of international public utility relating to the control of animal diseases, including those affecting humans, and the promotion of animal welfare and animal production food safety. The Fund also promotes appropriate mechanisms for the governance of veterinary health policies worldwide in line with the DIE's international quality standards for the performance of veterinary services.

As the world lead agency for animal health, the DIE participates in various platforms and forums where mechanisms and strategies for the control and eradication of animal diseases, including those transmissible to humans are developed. These mechanisms usually include tools, methods and procedures to support countries that request assistance.

As the DIE considers Veterinary Services to be a Global Public Good, it is currently implementing a range of programmes and projects to build the capacity of Veterinary Services. The DIE offers its Members the use of the DIE PVS Tool for the voluntary evaluation of the performance of their Veterinary Services in order to assess their level of compliance with DIE quality standards. Based on the results of this evaluation, a gap

analysis process is conducted to prepare investment projects in line with the priorities set by the Member concerned. The OIE then lobbies key international donors to provide financing for these projects.

Further OIE strategies for the benefit of its Members include:

- The twinning initiative with OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres aimed primarily at ensuring the more uniform world distribution of available expertise in support of OIE Members in animal disease control and to increase their participation in international standard-setting processes.

- A general model of veterinary legislation that the OIE has developed to assist its Members in updating and modernising their legislation to meet OIE standards, particularly developing countries where health legislation may be obsolete.

- Continuing training of OIE Delegates and their key staff (mainly OIE focal points for various issues) to ensure that they are aware of their rights and obligations and are able to carry out their duties relating to OIE standards in a more effective manner. There is a high turnover rate among OIE Delegates, especially in developing countries, of more than 30% per year. This training includes regional workshops (or national workshops in specific cases) and seminars on specific subjects or generic ones such as the Good Governance of Veterinary Services;

- Establishment of Regional Animal Health Centres in connection with the OIE/FAO GF-TADs Agreement, to provide technical assistance to countries for the control of animal diseases.

- Implementation and monitoring of specific projects (such as WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility projects) to support building SPS capacities of Members.

- Implementation and monitoring of specific projects for the implementation of OIE international standards, such as for the compartmentalisation of certain diseases.

Conclusions

The OIE will pursue its policy of supporting its Members in the implementation of international standards, an aspect that will be clearly reflected in its Fifth Strategic Plan, with continued capacity-building and support for its Regional and Subregional Representations to enable them to provide close and continuous assistance to Members.

The implementation of OIE standards on traceability will be included in OIE training programmes for Delegates and Focal Points of Members.

Key words: OIE PVS Tool –Gap Analysis –OIE Focal points –Veterinary Services –OIE standards.
