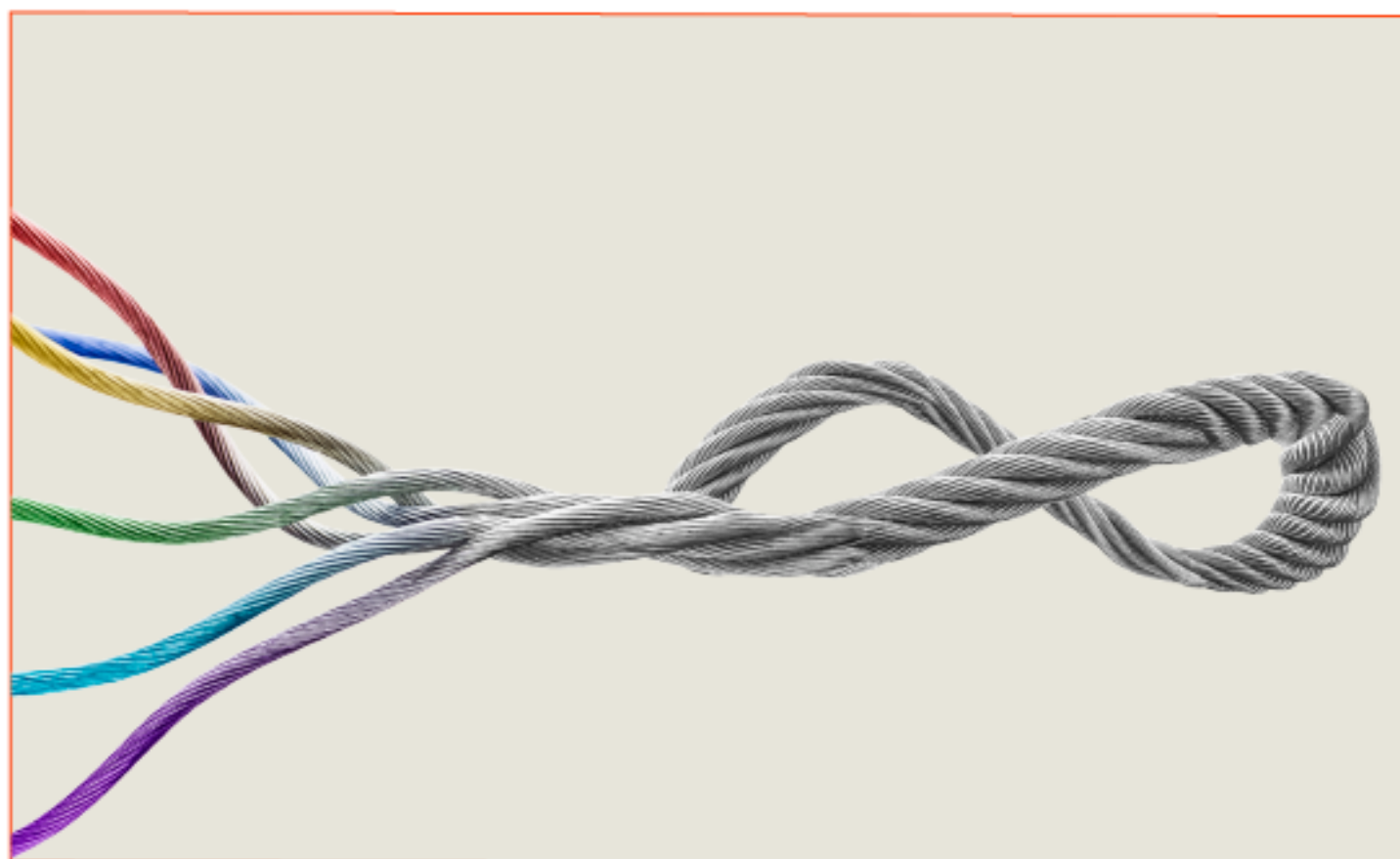


# Panorama

Bulletin 2023-1

Editorial  
Perspectives  
Dossier  
Around the World  
Resources



## Building Leadership in Veterinary Services



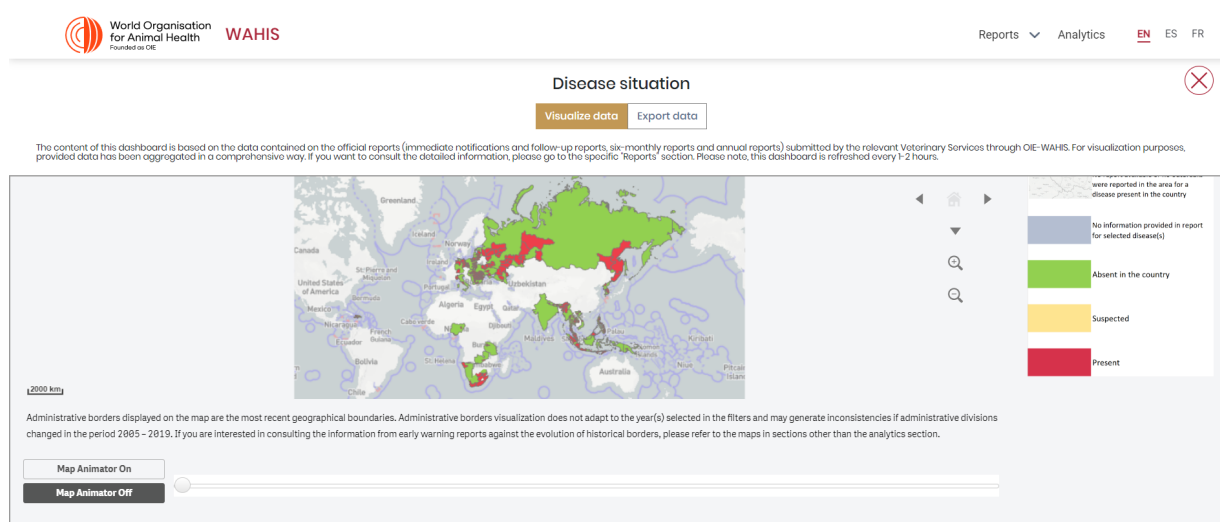
World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

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## How does notification to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) empower leadership of Veterinary Services (VS) and Competent Authorities (CAs)?

Since its creation in 1924, WOAH has ensured transparency of the global animal health situation. The Veterinary Services of WOAH Members have an obligation to notify WOAH of all relevant information on animal health through the [World Animal Health Information System \(WAHIS\)](#) [1, 2, 3]. This information is shared through the WAHIS public interface and used to ensure the safe movement of animals and animal products, to perform risk assessments, and to inform policy decision-making for animal and public health [4].

Transparency in animal disease notification and timely and accurate reporting demonstrate that VS and CAs carry out good practices. The official information published in WAHIS is used by partner countries to prevent disease incursion through the international movement of animals and animal products.



The [World Animal Health Information System \(WAHIS\)](#) disease situation dashboard. This map shows the distribution of African swine fever, reported by Members as of 21 August 2022.

Early notification to WOAH not only illustrates that the VS concerned have the capacity for disease surveillance and early detection, but also shows their willingness and transparency to communicate at the international level. In addition, VS and CAs can notify exceptional animal disease events to WOAH through WAHIS, by means of immediate notification and daily follow-up reports.

**In 2021, 580 immediate notifications and 3,266 follow-up reports were submitted through WAHIS and figures show an upward trend since 2014.**

When identifying reporting countries that have tested positive for the presence of a specific disease, the sensitivity of the system depends on the disease involved. Several studies show that the vast majority of VS correctly report their disease situation [5, 6, 7, 8].

Countries know that data on the absence of a disease in their territories, or the territories of their trading partners, facilitates trade and opens up international markets for trade of animals and their products. This is why other non-Members also report their animal health information through WAHIS. In 2022, in addition to the 182 WOAH Members, 26 territories and non-Members reported their animal health situation through the system.

Moreover, WOAHP makes this information available to researchers, institutions, decision-makers and other stakeholders. WAHIS holds data on more than 200 diseases from around 200 countries collected since 1996. These data represent an important source of information for disease modelling and prediction, and allow visualisation of disease dynamics, supporting VS to perform risk analyses.

Therefore, accurate and timely reporting by WOAHP Members through WAHIS demonstrates leadership in transparency, a rapid response to disease outbreaks, global communication and the ownership of the competencies required to manage this process effectively.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2023.1.3378>

## PERSPECTIVES

### ▶ WOAHP ACTIONS

# The strategic use of WAHIS empowers leadership of Veterinary Services

## SUMMARY

WAHIS holds a wealth of data gathered by countries' Veterinary Services, including information on listed and emerging diseases. This article outlines how the data reported through WAHIS empower the leadership of Veterinary Services through accurate, timely and transparent notification.

## KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #disease information, #safe trade, #transparency, #Veterinary Services, #WAHIS, #World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

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**WOAH (founded as OIE) is a global organisation, working to ensure the health of animals across the world. Since 1924, we have focused on the complexities of animal health. We disseminate information on animal diseases and use science-based strategies to limit their potentially negative impact on society.**

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