Annual Report
2018
Healthy animals for a better life
It was on 1st January 2016 that OIE Member Countries entrusted me with the task of implementing the 6th Strategic Plan, on the basis of the working guidelines they had adopted. In order to achieve the objectives of this five-year plan by 2020, there has been a major effort to restructure the OIE. Extensive work has been carried out to rethink the functioning of some of the governing bodies and revise many of the Organisation’s internal procedures, the object being to achieve greater transparency and to involve Member Countries and partners at an earlier stage in the development of standards and of the OIE’s work programme.

We are now at the halfway mark, and we are proud to have succeeded in further developing our global strategies through careful consideration of the policies and programmes in place, and to have initiated major projects that will enable the OIE to better respond to the health challenges of the future while making a substantial contribution to broader objectives, such as those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2018, two structural projects were launched: the redevelopment of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and the preparatory work for the development of an Observatory to monitor the implementation of OIE Standards. This was made possible by introducing a new way of involving, and communicating with, our network and by obtaining the support of the international community at the highest political levels.

As work on the preparation of the 7th Strategic Plan is now underway, and Member Countries and partners are being invited to communicate their needs to us, it is important to measure progress so that we can ask the right questions to enable us to establish our future goals, which will be presented for adoption by Member Countries in May 2020 at the 88th General Session. It is for this reason that this Annual Report aims to look back at the activities carried out in 2018, measure the results against the objectives fixed by the 6th Strategic Plan at the beginning of my mandate, and consider the activities that will prepare the OIE for future opportunities.

To raise awareness among the wider public and increase their involvement, the report is available on the website in a number of new formats, and it includes concrete examples to illustrate the importance of the OIE’s work in creating a better life for people across the world.

The results presented here are a reflection of the commitment of OIE staff teams and of our global network of experts. Member Countries and partners, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continuing dedication. It is by working together that we will build the future of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Dr Monique Eloit,
OIE Director General
2018 in figures

182 Member Countries
following the adoption of Saint Lucia in May 2018

12 Representations at regional and sub-regional level

301 Centres of Scientific Expertise

Nearly 75 Partner Organisations

A budget of €30 M, 1/3 of which is derived from statutory contributions from Member Countries

85 Standards adopted or revised in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Manuals

3 global conferences
86th General Session, control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants, the fight against antimicrobial resistance

2 regional conferences (Europe and the Americas)

119 active contracts with donors, 31 of which were signed in 2018

28 Expert Groups on a variety of subjects
Wildlife, avian influenza, animal welfare in laying hen production systems, tilapia lake virus...

1,200 people trained by the OIE at regional seminars and meetings
6th Strategic plan
Visible political impacts

Tangible progress since the launch of the 6th Strategic Plan

As 2018 marks the halfway point in the implementation of the 6th Strategic Plan, it is a timely opportunity to look back at the structural changes that have been made since 2016. In addition to the progress that has been achieved through the activities carried out as part of the OIE’s mandate, it is important to highlight the progressive transformation and re-structuring of the Organisation that have taken place. The aim of these developments is to make the workings of the OIE more transparent and to enable the Organisation, together with its partners, to make a substantial contribution to broader objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Listening to Member Countries and partners

The first three years of the implementation of the 6th Strategic Plan have been marked by major changes to the structure of the Organisation and modifications to a number of its procedures. The aim of these changes is to promote dialogue and inclusion. Member Countries have also adopted new procedures for electing members of the OIE’s governing bodies and for its network of expertise. In addition to improvements to internal governance, new opportunities have been created for dialogue with Member Countries and other stakeholders.

For example, several think tanks and brainstorming sessions were organised to support the redevelopment of the PVS Pathway in 2017 and the creation of the animal welfare forum. Similar sessions have been held to discuss other projects, such as vaccine banks and, more recently, the establishment of guidelines on Public–Private Partnerships.

The OIE is continuing to take this open, listening approach by involving Member Countries in the development of key projects such as OIE-WAHIS and the Observatory for OIE Standards.

Building lasting links with partners and investors

A new drive to strengthen international institutional partnerships was set in motion. Recent partnerships have made it possible to launch structural projects such as the OIE Observatory, which is being developed in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Collaboration was institutionalised in May 2018 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding. It will be strengthened further with the establishment of a Multi-Partner Trust Fund, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to finance tripartite activities related to antimicrobial resistance. The implementation of this global governance is encouraged at regional level through tripartite platforms.

Maintaining the trust of Member Countries and partners is a key objective for the OIE, and it strives to ensure increasing transparency in the way it operates and in the results it produces. In 2018, this trust was reaffirmed, as two countries expressed their intention to contribute in extraordinary category to the OIE. In addition, new partners have made voluntary investments in OIE activities through the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, which benefited from more than 30 new funding streams.

Increasing the involvement of political decision-makers

Despite the growing importance of issues such as antimicrobial resistance, which is weakening the efficacy of certain treatments for both humans and animals, and despite the appearance of animal diseases that have significant consequences for the health and livelihoods of rural populations, it is clear that the impact of animal health on humans remains poorly understood and its importance is undervalued. Therefore, it is vital to obtain long-term commitment from political decision-makers and circles of influence to implement activities that are sustainable and acknowledge the role of Veterinary Services in national and global health governance. To this end, in 2018, as in previous years, the OIE actively participated in several high-level political panels and events, at both national and global level, the conclusions of which made reference to OIE programmes.

2016

World leaders pledge to fight antimicrobial resistance. In the presence of the Directors General of the OIE, WHO and FAO

New York, September 2016

2017

Numerous bilateral meetings held with a view to garner high level political commitment during different events in 2018

Marrakesh, October 2018

2018

The Agriculture Ministers of the G20 countries welcome the development of the Observatory for monitoring the implementation of OIE Standards in order to ensure sustainable food security

Buenos Aires, July 2018

OIE International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

New York, September 2016

Agriculture Ministers join forces to tackle antimicrobial resistance in farming

Marrakesh, October 2018

Forum on PPR

45 countries reaffirm their commitment to eradicating peste des petits ruminants worldwide

Brussels, September 2018

Ministerial Meeting during Green Week

69 Agriculture Ministers welcome several OIE initiatives, including the OIE-WAHIS initiative

Berlin, January 2018

SADC Ministerial Meeting

Johannesburg, June 2018

G20

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Controlling animal health risks

Controlling the diseases that affect terrestrial and aquatic animals, and improving the welfare of these animals, are at the heart of the OIE mandate, not only because it has obvious health benefits for both animals and humans, but because it protects the livelihoods of communities, reduces poverty, supports the economy and safeguards international trade.

It is in this context that the OIE develops and updates international standards and recommendations and develops control strategies for priority diseases. In addition, it supports the strengthening of diagnostic and research capacities.
To support these global strategies, the OIE Vaccine Bank supplied vaccines against FMD, rabies and PPR, most of which were purchased by the World Bank, FAO, WHO, CDC in the US, and the NGO Four Paws.

## Improving laboratory capacities

For effective animal disease control, we need laboratories with good diagnostic capabilities and well-managed research activities. Various initiatives were launched, and existing initiatives strengthened, to ensure that research and diagnostic laboratories have the resources they need over the long term and that their biosafety and biosecurity arrangements are sustainable.

In addition to maintaining existing programmes and training Focal Points for veterinary laboratories, the OIE participates in international efforts to ensure the sustainability of laboratory systems in the health sector. Notably, the OIE has joined the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP), which is led by WHO in collaboration with several other partners, and aims to develop the skills of laboratory managers.

A manual detailing the skills required will be made available to Member Countries at the beginning of 2019 and this will be followed by a set of training tools.

Find out more

In addition, the OIE is improving its PVS Tool for sustainable laboratories.

## Combatting priority animal diseases

The OIE has continued to implement the global disease control strategies for foot and mouth disease (FMD), rabies and peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

In 2018, the tools that support countries in which foot and mouth disease is endemic were strengthened using the knowledge gained over the last ten years of strategy implementation. The FMD Working Group of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) continues to support the Global Strategy by providing technical support to Members in the preparation, evaluation and implementation of national FMD risk analysis and other risk-based programmes.

The ‘United Against Rabies’ collaboration between the OIE, WHO, FAO and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) published Zero by 30: The global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies. This plan provides for preventive action that is coordinated between the various sectors involved, using a ‘One Health’ approach, and prioritises the control of the disease at its animal source, in dogs. The OIE has provided specific technical support to several countries to help them make progress with their national eradication plans, and it will further increase its support in 2019, notably through the PVS Pathway. Find out more on p.26.

The implementation of the PPR Global Eradication Programme continued with the establishment of the Global Research and Expertise Network (GREN) and the organisation of a global OIE-FAO conference in September 2018. During this conference, which was organised with the support of the European Union, government representatives of the 45 countries in attendance reaffirmed their commitment to combating the disease.

The success of these strategies relies on vaccination campaigns, the strengthening of the capacities of human and animal health systems, as well as improved regional coordination.

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Reducing the threat of antimicrobial resistance

The fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to be a priority for the OIE and for the wider international community. To gain a better understanding of how these substances are being used in animals, for several years the OIE has been using a database to record information provided by both Member Countries and non-member countries alike.

The third annual report on antimicrobials intended for use in animals included new measurement criteria, such as the total biomass of food-producing animals, to make it possible to compare data on different species and regions over time. A record number of 155 countries contributed this year, which reflects that this subject is now better understood and has become a priority. Encouragingly, an increasing number of countries are in a position to report not only qualitative data, but also data on the quantity of antimicrobials used (32% more in the third year of data collection compared to the second year). Moreover, analysis of the data shows that progress has been made in adopting national legislative frameworks for the use of antimicrobials, which are essential for ensuring good practice.

To ensure further action is taken, the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance was organised in Marrakesh, Morocco, in October 2018. Participants launched an urgent appeal for new research on priority vaccines and other alternatives to antimicrobials and for the phasing out of the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. The conference also highlighted the importance of high-quality training for veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and producers, and of collaboration between these actors.

Read the recommendations here:
www.oie.int/amr2018

Safeguarding animal welfare, a key to ensure better productivity

The first OIE Animal Welfare Forum was held in Paris in March 2018. Gathering representatives of Member Countries, technical experts, researchers, and various other partners, the forum aimed to support the implementation of the OIE Global Strategy on this issue (adopted in 2017) by increasing the involvement of countries in the development of animal welfare standards and by identifying the priority questions that should be addressed in the future. The participants examined the obstacles faced by governments, industry and academia to implement OIE Standards. The discussions highlighted the need to improve countries’ knowledge of existing standards by pinpointing the key players and identifying opportunities for their collaboration and the specificities of their cultural contexts. The need to demonstrate the interdependent relationship between animal welfare, the economy and productivity was also highlighted.

The topic of discussion at the second forum in 2019 will be the transport of animals by land, sea and air.

Read the 2018 final report:
www.oie.int/awforum

The issue of antimicrobial resistance is one the priorities of the Tripartite FAO-OIE-WHO, and progress is being monitored at the highest political levels. In 2018, the Tripartite Alliance developed a joint workplan with the goal of providing better support to countries in the development and implementation of their national action plans. The latest achievements of this joint plan will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2019.

According to the data provided by countries for the third annual report in 2018 on antimicrobials intended for use in animals, the number of countries using antimicrobials as growth promoters has decreased from 60 in the previous round of data collection to 45 countries*.

*According to the data provided by countries for the third annual report in 2018 on antimicrobials intended for use in animals.
Ensuring transparency in communication

Real-time information on the animal health situation facilitates better disease management and thus ensures better protection for animal and human populations. This information also builds confidence in cross-border trade in animals and animal products. To this end, the OIE collects large quantities of information from its network via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and disseminates it widely to the international community.
Establishing a list of priority diseases to be actively monitored, and renovating WAHIS to create a system that is more interactive, reactive and accessible, will make it possible to improve global transparency even further.

More information on p. 33.
Facilitating the recognition of disease-free zones and countries

If a country has OIE disease-free status or an OIE-endorsed national control programme, it is evidence that it is transparent about its animal health situation and that it has the capacity to implement the measures necessary to ensure that regional and international commercial trade can flow smoothly.

The OIE actively supports its Member Countries in obtaining official disease-free status and programme endorsement.

It has run several rounds of workshops on obtaining (2017) and maintaining (2018) official recognition of disease-free status and control programmes.

More information on disease status and the diseases concerned is available here:
www.oie.int/official-status

New procedures for the self-declaration of disease-free status, which is the responsibility of OIE Member Countries, were made available in 2018. These procedures, together with the archives of self-declarations published since 2000, can be found on a new page on the OIE website:
www.oie.int/selfdeclaration

As at 31 December 2018

Of the

124* active self-declarations of disease absence,
12 were published in 2018

As at 31 December 2018

11 new certificates of official disease-free status were presented to 10 countries by the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2018.

100 OIE Members with at least one officially recognised disease status (for a zone or the country as a whole) or one official control programme, with a total 346 status/endorsed programmes to be maintained through annual reconfirmation.

As at 31 December 2018
Facilitating access to information

Whether it is information on its activities or news about the latest scientific developments, the OIE uses new digital tools to ensure that such information is widely distributed.

New interactive communication tools

In addition, it empowered participants to take ownership of OIE communication campaigns, notably the campaigns on antimicrobial resistance (www.oie-antimicrobial.com) and rinderpest (www.rinderpestvigilance.com), with a view to implementing them in Member Countries. These seminars provide participants with the opportunity to network, and they can continue to do so throughout the year thanks to a new web platform that allows countries to exchange information and tools.

Helping Veterinary Services to communicate better

It is essential to equip veterinary science professionals with communication skills to ensure effective Animal Health Services.

To this end, the OIE regularly organises regional seminars to train National Focal Points for Communication; a second round of these seminars was held in 2018. These seminars enabled 130 participants from 111 countries to improve their skills in risk communication, behaviour change communication, and communication with the media.

Renovation of the OIE Bulletin

The OIE’s longest-standing publication has become a digital-only publication.

The new Bulletin is divided into three separate sections, including a monthly newsletter, and provides a wide range of information on the life of the OIE and its network.

In 2018, more than 2,200 players took part in the Rinderpest Game Challenge by playing ‘Rinderpest Vigilance’, a serious game that was launched as part of the campaign of the same name. By creating virtual scenarios of the resurgence of the disease, which was declared eradicated in 2011, this educational tool is designed to be a fun way of maintaining awareness of rinderpest amongst veterinary students, practising veterinarians and laboratory technicians.

It is your turn to play: www.rinderpestvigilance-game.com

Furthermore, some 15,000 documents collated since the OIE was founded are now available through a web portal. This portal also provides access to regular e-newsletters that monitor the latest scientific information on specific priority diseases/issues.

More information: doc.oie.int
Axis 3
Strengthening the resilience of animal health systems

High-quality animal health services are the cornerstone of effective global animal health governance, enabling us to address the current and future challenges facing our planet.

The OIE has a number of different programmes to help its Members build their capacity and form synergistic collaborations with human health services. This enables them to make a decisive contribution to the social and economic development of communities and the protection of human and environmental health and, thus, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
Helping Veterinary Services to improve their performance

The PVS Pathway is the OIE’s flagship programme for the sustainable improvement of the performance of Veterinary Services. It evaluates, analyses, and proposes solutions that are adapted to the countries concerned in order to help them improve their policies and strategies for promoting effective and sustainable veterinary governance, in line with OIE Standards.

2018 was marked by the roll out of the new and improved PVS Pathway, which takes a more flexible approach in order to support countries more effectively by targeting their needs and priorities through, for example, missions that focus on a disease or issue.

For rabies, for instance, a model was prepared with experts and technical partners such as WHO, FAO and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) in order to support the Veterinary Services of infected countries in their efforts to eliminate the disease. Pilot missions will begin in 2019.

One of the aims of the new PVS Pathway is to consolidate links with other sectors, particularly the human health sector, and to develop them further.

More information: www.oie.int/pvspathway

23 PVS missions were carried out in 2018

The first orientation training workshops were held in Mexico, South Africa and Senegal, with the participation of representatives from 44 countries.
Promoting the ‘One Health’ approach

The multisectoral ‘One Health’ approach is essential for ensuring optimal improvement and protection of human, animal and environmental health. Establishing joint cross-sector strategies that are well-planned and harmonised is essential at both national and global level. With this in mind, the two principal international standard-setting organisations for human and animal health, which are the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO), have been collaborating for several years to create links between the PVS Pathway, which focuses on the application of OIE Standards, and the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The two organisations have developed a practical approach in the form of joint national workshops offered to Member Countries that wish to synergise the activities of their human and animal health sectors by involving the relevant ministries at an early stage.

In 2018, with financial support from OIE World Fund donors, 9 joint PVS (OIE) / IHR (WHO) national workshops were co-organised in 2018.

Building skills adapted to the local context

Various regional seminars and training workshops are organised every year to enable Member Countries to be involved in the consultations that lead to the development of international standards and then in the application of these standards at national level. Aimed at OIE Delegates and National Focal Points, these workshops also serve to strengthen the regional networks of Veterinary Services.

In 2018, 13 JEE missions involved PVS experts.

37 regional and sub-regional seminars and meetings provided training for more than 1,200 participants across the five regions.
Harmonising the training of veterinary paraprofessionals

In several countries, the limited number of veterinarians is insufficient to cover the needs of the whole country. It is vital, therefore, to ensure that there is appropriate training and supervision for the paraprofessionals who take on the responsibility for providing services in the field. For this, an official definition of their role under the responsibility of practising veterinarians is included in the OIE Terrestrial Code, and recommendations for minimum competencies were published in 2018. The latter cover three domains of activity: animal health, veterinary public health, and laboratory diagnosis.

To supplement the guide to minimum competencies, guidelines on the development of initial training curricula, like those that already exist for the training of veterinarians, will be published in 2019.

Promoting public–private partnerships

The OIE is continuing to build on the progress already made in developing public–private partnerships (PPPs) in the animal health sector. PPPs, which can take many forms, have the potential to build further synergies and increase resources for veterinary activities. In October 2018, a workshop brought together representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors with a view to developing guidelines to support Members in establishing sustainable PPPs. These guidelines will be published in 2019 and will be supported by regional workshops and pilot projects.

More information:
www.oie.int/publicprivatepartnerships

Supporting emergency response

The emergence of diseases such as Ebola, highly pathogenic avian influenza and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the upsurge in antimicrobial resistance, have highlighted the need for countries to be prepared to respond to health crises such as these. Too few countries have adequate national emergency plans, as demonstrated by the survey of OIE Member Countries carried out in 2018:
www.oie.int/emergencies

The OIE is working with various partners to address the issue of managing animal health emergencies. In particular, the OIE and FAO have worked with INTERPOL to develop a three-year work programme, which is designed to promote interagency and regional cooperation to combat agroterrorism and criminality. It is due to be launched in 2019.

Funding: European Union, Global Affairs Canada

Funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
One of the key objectives of the OIE’s 6th Strategic Plan is to make it easier to access, use and share the data available in WAHIS by completely redeveloping the system. Functional development began in 2018.

With several advanced features, the new OIE-WAHIS platform will incorporate several changes to improve usability, geographic information and data analysis. Its design will allow it to evolve in line with technological innovations and changes in OIE international Standards. It will also be possible to compare data between countries and to connect to other national, regional and international databases.

Implementation will begin in 2020. Key users will test the platform and training will also be provided.

More information: [www.oie.int/oie-wahis](http://www.oie.int/oie-wahis)
Progress towards an Observatory of OIE Standards

The development of animal health standards is one of the OIE’s central objectives. Yet, if the standards are to be implemented effectively by its Members, the OIE must ensure that they remain relevant and are fit for purpose. In this regard, in May 2018, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates adopted a Resolution recommending the establishment of an Observatory to monitor the implementation of OIE Standards. The Observatory will better define priorities for the revision of existing standards and the development of new standards. In addition, it will enable us to better understand the difficulties that countries face and to target capacity-building activities where they are needed most.

Supported by G20 Agriculture Ministers at a meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2018, this ambitious project will require several years of work before it is fully operational. The design phase, which began in 2018, will determine how the Observatory will work by reviewing the current mechanisms for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OIE standards. This work is being carried out in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through a specific partnership signed in 2018.

In 2019, a reference group made up of experts from Member Countries, regional economic communities and international organisations was established to provide technical support. At the same time, communication with Delegates and decision-makers on the benefits of implementing OIE Standards will be strengthened.

More information: www.oie.int/observatory

Pathway for the design of the OIE Observatory

1. Understand & advocate
2. Explore potential solutions
3. Define scenarios
4. Select target scenario
5. Deployment of roadmap

At the end of 2018, the OIE’s Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Manuals contained a total of 389 international Standards.
The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924. Its 182 Member Countries have given it a mandate to improve the health and welfare of animals worldwide. It is supported in its activities by 301 centres of scientific expertise and 12 regional offices spread across every continent.