

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

CX/RVDF 26/28/5
February 2026

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Twenty-eighth Session
23-27 March 2026

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM WOAHP, INCLUDING VICH

(Prepared by WOAHP)

Introduction

1. As an observer organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has a long-standing collaboration and regularly contributes to Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meetings.
2. WOAHP addresses food safety-related issues through its standard-setting activities and works closely with CAC, its subsidiary bodies, and other international organisations to promote safe international trade in animals and their products. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is of the utmost interest to WOAHP and its 183 Members. It is also part of the Quadripartite cooperation (Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), and WOAHP).
3. The WOAHP Seventh Strategic Plan¹ (7SP) (2021–2025) has been extended by one year, making 2025 and 2026 its last two implementation years with five strategic objectives:
 - WOAHP Scientific expertise by reinforcing the scientific excellence of the Organisation, improving collaboration, and broadening the Organisation's approach to animal health and its systems.
 - Data governance by optimising data management frameworks while improving accessibility and visibility of data for stakeholders.
 - Responding to Members' needs by monitoring the implementation of standards to ensure transparency and improving insights provided through the Performance of Veterinary Service (PVS) Pathway.
 - Collaboration with Partners by developing the voice of WOAHP in global policy dialogue, targeting collaboration for impact.
 - Efficiency and agility by modernising WOAHP through robust processes and tools.
4. The upcoming 8th Strategic Plan is under development and will be presented for adoption during the next WOAHP General Session in May 2026.
5. WOAHP's Veterinary Product Department and Drug Resistant (VPDR) Department contributes actively to the implementation of the WOAHP 7SP by being accountable for providing guidance to enhance the quality of veterinary products, including the coordination of actions supporting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Standards and guidelines related to AMR

6. The primary mandate of WOAHP is to produce standards published in its *Codes* and *Manuals* covering terrestrial and aquatic animals, to protect and promote animal health and welfare. Their development involves regular review and formal adoption at the annual General Session by the World Assembly, made up of Delegates designated by the governments of its 183 WOAHP Members.

¹ <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2021/08/a-88sg-14.pdf>

7. WOAAH has developed standards and guidelines aimed at supporting responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals and monitoring of AMR of antimicrobial use in terrestrial and aquatic animals. The standard-setting process ensures that standards are updated, when relevant, to accommodate to new findings and relevant Members' comments regarding scientific basis and implementation. This work is supported by the WOAAH Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMRWG)² and their Collaborating Centres by updating the chapters relevant to AMR in the WOAAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*³, and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*⁴.
8. The revision of *Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Health's Code's* chapters related to antimicrobial resistance continued in 2025 via the AMRWG and relevant *ad hoc* group including Aquaculture.
9. The revision of *Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Health Codes'* chapters related to antimicrobial resistance continued in 2025 via the AMRWG and relevant *ad hoc* groups including Aquaculture.
10. Two relevant chapters are currently under revision following the update of Chapter 6.10 Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (in the terrestrial code); Chapter 6.2 Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals (in the aquatic code) and Chapter 6.8 Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes (in the terrestrial code). These revisions aim to ensure that the standards and guidance provided by WOAAH continue 'to promote the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials'.
11. The list of the List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance⁵ updated by AMRWG in January 2025 by taking into account the CODEX guidance documents as well. This update included key milestones such as: The creation of an 'AMR package', consisting of the WOAAH List and related species-specific Technical Reference Documents (TRDs), including an explanatory preface and more visible location within WOAAH's website⁶. The AMRWG also reviewed the Essential Veterinary Medicines List (EVML)⁷ for food-producing animals that Brooke (Action for working horses and donkeys) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA) have been developing.

International Cooperations:

AMR in connection to the United Nations General Assembly

12. Following the adoption of the United Nations (UN) Political Declaration of the high-level meeting (UN General Assembly) on antimicrobial resistance⁸, WOAAH released a memo with summarising the key outcomes that Veterinary Services need to consider and implement. These outcomes highlight their essential contributions to achieving the four commitments⁹ for the animal health sector by 2030.
 - Reduced quantities of antimicrobials
 - Prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials
 - Prioritisation of prevention with focus on animal; vaccination strategy
 - Investment to ensure access to essential veterinary services.
13. To achieve and provide support to reduce quantities of antimicrobials, WOAAH continues to deploy actions and resources to maintain or increase level of reporting to ANIMUSE¹⁰, (global interactive automated database on ANimal antiMicrobial USE) as it provides the standardised and validated methodology to accurately monitor antimicrobial use in animals.
14. The data published in the 9th report (May 2025)¹¹ show steady trends, with no further reductions in use observed. By the end of 2025, 54 Members had publicly shared their data, and the proportion of Members providing quantitative surveillance data continued to grow, *surpassing 60%*. To facilitate data and report submission, WOAAH provided targeted training to selected Members on preparing national action plan reports, with a focus on increasing transparency and

² <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/standard-setting-process/working-groups/working-group-on-antimicrobial-resistance/>

³ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/>

⁴ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/aquatic-code-online-access/>

⁵ <https://www.woah.org/en/document/list-of-antimicrobial-agents-of-veterinary-importance/>

⁶ <https://www.woah.org/en/document/list-of-antimicrobial-agents-of-veterinary-importance/>

⁷ <https://worldvet.org/evml/>

⁸ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/292/73/pdf/n2429273.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2025/02/2024-un-political-declaration-on-amr-takeaways-for-vs.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://amu.woah.org/amu-system-portal/home>

¹¹ <https://www.woah.org/en/document/ninth-annual-report-antimicrobial-agents-intended-for-use-in-animals/>

supporting the transition from data reporting to evidence-based policy decision-making.

15. In addition, another report was published presenting the findings on the economic impact of AMR in food-producing animals in the EcoAMR Series Report¹².
16. To ensure uptake of the commitment to prioritise prevention, with a particular focus on animal vaccination strategies, WOAHA established a multidisciplinary *ad hoc* group 'Prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce global antimicrobial use in animals'. The first kick-off meeting was held in January 2026. The group final goal to develop a five-year action plan outlining additional activities at global and regional levels, in synergy with the implementation of Resolution No. 29 from the 92nd General Session¹³.
17. Altogether, this will ensure that WOAHA Members and relevant partners focus their resources on the vaccines most likely to meaningfully reduce global AMU in high growth animal sectors, while also providing a concrete roadmap for translating scientific priorities into deliverables both on the farm and in the marketplace.
18. During the 92nd General Session as it links with the topic of the Animal Health Forum¹⁴ held, as well as the technical item No. 1 in the 34th Regional Commission Conference of the Asia/Pacific Region.
19. Aiming to ensure investing in animal health system to '*support equitable access to essential veterinary services, improve animal health and appropriate management practices to prevent infections*' WOAHA took several actions, to better connect our membership to global and regional development banks, as well as to expand the donor base of the AMR-Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Programme, where WOAHA played the Steering Committee Chair for the year

Global Action Plan on AMR

20. WOAHA has continued its close collaboration with Quadripartite organisations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAHA) *in consultation with Member States, to 'update the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance by 2026 to ensure a robust and inclusive multisectoral response, through a One Health approach, that aligns with current realities to drive greater impact against antimicrobial resistance, and request the Quadripartite to report biennially on progress made towards their specific and joint commitment'* in line with the commitment of the above mentioned UN Declaration, Commitment paragraph No. 25.
21. Zero Draft revision¹⁵ of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, Accelerating the Global Response (2026-2035) was made public at the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat-AMR website. The final version to be submitted to respective governing bodies for consideration and likely adoption during upcoming general assemblies.
22. WOAHA, in coordination with Quadripartite partners, has also been engaging with the multisectoral organisation committee in charge of preparing the fifth high-level ministerial meeting on AMR¹⁶, planned for June 2026.
23. The third WOAHA's Global AMR Conference, expected to occur in 2027 with the outcomes driven programme. The programme will be built on the progress made from the first two global conferences (2013¹⁷ & 2018¹⁸).
24. WOAHA continued its actions to increase AMR awareness and understanding. Please visit our website Global AMR portal¹⁹ for more information.

Capacity Building on veterinary products

25. Capacity-building activities are key animal and public health elements, including good governance of national veterinary services and products.

National Focal Points

26. WOAHA encourages all Members to nominate National Focal Points, under the authority of WOAHA's Delegate, for eight strategic issues, including Veterinary Products.

¹² <https://www.woaha.org/en/superbugs-could-jeopardise-food-security-for-over-two-billion-people-and-increase-annual-health-care-costs-by-us-159-billion-annually-by-2050-finds-most-extensive-modelling-to-date/#:~:text=The%20EcoAMR%20series%20%28Health%20and%20Economic%20Impacts%20of,care%20costs%2C%20food%20security%20and%20the%20global%20economy.>

¹³ <https://www.woaha.org/en/event/92nd-general-session-of-the-world-assembly-of-delegates/#ui-id-5>

¹⁴ <https://www.woaha.org/en/event/92nd-general-session-of-the-world-assembly-of-delegates/#ui-id-3>

¹⁵ https://www.gjsamr.org/docs/librariesprovider25/mspp-page/zero-draft-updated-gap-amr.pdf?sfvrsn=702e3876_3

¹⁶ <https://www.5thhighlevelministerialng.com/>

¹⁷ https://www.woaha.org/eng/A_AMR2013/Recommendations_AMR_2013.pdf

¹⁸

https://www.woaha.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/A_2nd_OIE_Global_Conf_Recommendations.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.woaha.org/en/what-we-do/global-initiatives/antimicrobial-resistance/#ui-id-1>

27. Ahead of future training cycles (2023–2026), WOAHA's National Focal Point Training approach was reviewed and re-designed to target better the specific and differing needs of the five WOAHA regions. The primary target audience remained the National Focal Points of Veterinary Products. The revised approach intended to establish a solid base for preparing general and tailored training materials and providing a lively platform for dialogue, updates, experience, and knowledge exchanges via face-to-face seminars, webinars, workshops, and e-learning opportunities.
28. Actions to support good governance and capacity building continued in 2025 with more than 300 people trained around the world on specific items such as AMU, AMR and aquatic animals, surveillance and reporting of substandard and falsified veterinary medicines, as well as on the quality, management and use of veterinary products other than antimicrobials (i.e., antiparasitic drugs, vaccines, etc.). WOAHA continued its transition towards the definition of outcome-driven programmes, setting quantitative objectives to be achieved within a given time frame, with progressive deployment in all regions.

WOAHA's programme on Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products

29. Based on the recommendations and needs expressed by Focal Points for Veterinary Products at the different Focal Point Training Seminars, WOAHA has identified significant gaps in the capacities of many WOAHA Members to manage the quality of veterinary products at the post-marketing authorisation phase, with certain limitations to prevent, detect and respond to the presence of substandard or falsified veterinary products.
30. This programme aims to support Members in preventing, detecting, and responding to Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products (SFVPs), taking a cross-sectoral and transboundary approach. It focuses on five working areas, including developing the Pilot Monitoring and Surveillance System for Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products (VSAFE-pilot).
31. Feedback from Members and WHO in VSAFE-pilot has been pivotal for the development of TRUVET (Track and Report Unsafe VETerinary products), set to launch in 2026 following Resolution 29 of the 92nd General Session of the World Assembly²⁰.
32. TRUVET will build on the achievements of the VSAFE-pilot by introducing new functionalities and fostering greater inclusivity and collaboration with key stakeholders. Its ultimate goal is to strengthen veterinary supply chains and responses to SFVPs, protect animal health, support effective disease control strategies, and maintain public confidence in veterinary products.

WOAHA and the VICH activities

33. WOAHA continues to assist its 183 Members in building and implementing effective legislation to assure veterinary medicinal products' quality, safety, and efficacy, particularly antimicrobial agents. VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) is a trilateral (EU-Japan-USA) programme to harmonise technical requirements for veterinary product registration. As an associate Member of VICH, WOAHA supports and encourages its members to consider the VICH guidelines for the authorisation procedures of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs).
34. WOAHA considers that the international harmonisation of technical requirements for the pre-and post-marketing authorisation of VMPs is a necessity for animal health, public health, protection of the environment, and the facilitation of international trade and that VICH is one of the necessary tools to achieve these aims.
35. To facilitate this process, WOAHA has committed to supporting establishing the VICH Forum in non-VICH Members and regions. The objective is to lay the foundations for broader international harmonisation of the technical requirements for obtaining marketing authorisation (also known as registration) for a veterinary medicinal product.
36. The VICH Forum (VF) meets regularly alongside the VICH SC meeting. Recent meetings are listed below:
- The 17th VICH Forum (11-12 November 2024) and 43rd VICH Steering Committee meeting (10-15 November 2024), with 7th Public Conference held in Amsterdam (Netherlands)
 - The 18th VICH Forum meeting (11-12 November 2025) and 44th VICH Steering Committee meeting (13-16 November 2025), held in Indianapolis (USA).
37. During the 43rd VICH Steering Committee (SC) meeting, the Committee welcomed the first visiting delegations from the Forum: Botswana, the Republic of Korea, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as SC Observers.
38. The following main activities were achieved during the 43rd VICH Steering Committee meeting which was chaired by

²⁰ <https://www.woaha.org/app/uploads/2025/07/92gs-2025-final-report-en-09525.pdf>

the European Medicine Agency (EMA):

- Adoption and recognition of the Anthelmintics Experts Working Group (EWG) completed revision of nine (9) Anthelmintic Guidelines²¹ (GL)
- Acknowledgement of considerable progress made by multiple EWGs (working areas of Quality, Safety of Pharmaceuticals, Biologicals, and Pharmacovigilance)
- A Concept Paper adopted to develop a VICH Guideline for establish a Global Regulatory Dossier Framework. A draft Concept Paper for the revision of VICH GL 27²² (Antimicrobial Resistance) which was part of the VICH Phase 5 Strategy (2021-2025)

39. During the 17th Forum meeting the following main items were discussed:

- Report by the SC and the WOAAH on activities concerning Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) since the last VF meeting, feedback from the pre-meeting
- India's regulatory procedure for manufacturing, import and new drug approval
- Presentations and group discussions on the regulatory approach to unmet needs in the EU, USA (FDA), Japan, Canada, and Australia, completed with global industry perspective
- VF Member proposals for the subjects of discussions for the 18th VOF meeting

40. In parallel with the 43rd VICH Steering Committee and the 17th VICH Forum (VF) meetings a public event took place. Over 179 representatives from regulatory agencies and industry convened in Amsterdam from 13 to 14 November for the 7th VICH Public Conference at the European Medicines Agency.

41. The event theme, '*VICH and a New Era*' brought together leaders to address pressing challenges and develop strategies aimed at enhancing global access to veterinary medicinal products.

42. The conference underscored VICH's commitment to harmonising technical requirements, thus supporting the global availability of safe and effective veterinary medicinal products. The key topics included addressing challenges and developing strategies to support the global availability of safe and effective veterinary medicinal products through regulatory convergence, international cooperation, and efficient registration process. The conference documents published at: <https://vichsec.org/library/conference-documents/>

43. The 44th VICH SC meeting resulted the following accomplishments chaired by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- Adoption the revision of VICH Biologicals GL 34 (*Mycoplasma - Testing for the Detection of Mycoplasma Contamination*²³) by implementation by 1st April 2026
- Adoption of the Concept Paper for the revision of VICH MRK GL 47 (Comparative Metabolism Studies - Studies to evaluate the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics of Veterinary Drugs in Food-producing Animals: Comparative Metabolism Studies in Laboratory Animals)
- Adoption of the VICH Priorities for the next five years²⁴ (2026 - 2030).
- Adoption of the revision of Terms of Reference of the VICH Forum²⁵

44. One guideline released for public consultation:

- VICH Biologicals GL 62 Biologicals: Target Animal Safety Evaluation for Veterinary Monoclonal Antibody Product²⁶) until 15th February 2026.

45. In addition, the SC reviewed progress across nine Expert Working Group (EWGs), including Quality, Biologicals, Pharmacovigilance, Safety, Metabolism and Residue Kinetics, Combination Products, Bioequivalence, Medicated Premixes and Global Regulatory Dossier Framework.

²¹ <https://vichsec.org/guidelines/>

²² https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/GL27_st7f.pdf

²³ <https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/GL34-R1-st7.pdf>

²⁴ <https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/24084-Final.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2021/07/2026-vich-tor.pdf>

²⁶ <https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GL62-st4-.pdf>

46. The revised GL 22 (Safety studies for veterinary drug residues in human food: reproduction studies²⁷) and GL 23 (Studies to evaluate the safety of residues of veterinary drugs in human food: genotoxicity testing²⁸) were released for implementation by August 2026.
47. Forum Members convened a pre-meeting ahead of the 18th VICH Forum Meeting to exchange views on the benefits and the challenges of implementing VICH GLs, a create a VICH Forum Network handled by WOAHA with support the of the representatives of the Collaborating Centres of Veterinary Products, (ANSES²⁹, US-FDA³⁰ and Japan, NVAL-JMAFF³¹). In addition, feedback was provided from the Chair of the WOAHA Wildlife Group on the availability of veterinary medicines for wildlife animals and explore further collaboration considering the context of One Health.
48. During 18th VICH Forum Meeting the following main agenda items were discussed:
- Outcome of the Pre-meeting, VICH Secretariat and WOAHA annual report for interest for the Forum Members
 - Training session on Bioequivalence and biowaivers led by the Chair of the VICH Bioequivalence Expert Group
 - Regulatory perspective of overview from EU, Japan and USA representatives concerning registration of biological and immunological products
 - VF Member proposals for the subjects of discussion for the 19th VOF meeting
49. The 45th VICH SC and the 19th VF meetings will be held in Japan from 16-19 November 2026.

Capacity Building for Veterinary Services

The PVS Pathway

50. The WOAHA Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway is a global programme for the sustainable improvement of a Member's Veterinary Services in compliance with WOAHA's international standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. As its flagship capacity building programme, it is central to WOAHA's core mission of improving animal health and welfare worldwide. The PVS Pathway empowers national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services by providing an extensive understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement using a globally consistent methodology and based on WOAHA international standards for animal health and welfare. It provides a useful external perspective that can reveal gaps, inefficiencies, and opportunities for innovation.
51. At the specific request of a Member, WOAHA implements an independent assessment of the quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services. The PVS Evaluation using the WOAHA PVS Tool, which notably assesses veterinary medicines and biologicals and seeks to improve and monitor compliance of the veterinary infrastructure with WOAHA quality standards set out in the WOAHA *Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Codes*. Subsequent steps in the PVS Pathway³² include Planning, through Gap Analysis and Strategic Planning, and Targeted Support, which include *Sustainable Laboratories missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) Identification missions and one-year Agreements, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) workshops, Workforce Development support* (including training Veterinary Paraprofessionals curricula missions), and One Health Integration.
52. The programme has proven an unmitigated success over the two last decades. To date (January 2026), 146 PVS Evaluation missions took place in Members including 5 *non-Members*. And 22 PVS Evaluations for Aquatic Animal Health Services took place.
53. The PVS Tool assesses Critical Competency (CC) II-8 'Veterinary medicines and biologicals': updated results from PVS Evaluations indicate that roughly one-third of assessed Members (n=143) have no (5% of assessed Members) – or limited (29% of assessed Members) – authority/capability to regulate VMPs.
54. The PVS Tool assesses Critical Competency (CC) II-9 'Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU)': updated results reveal that 36% of assessed Members (n=106, for Veterinary Services) have no (8% of assessed Members) – or limited (27% of assessed Members) – authority/capability to manage AMR and AMU.
55. For the Aquatic Animal Health Services, 95% of assessed Members (n=20) have no (30% of assessed Members) – or limited (65% of assessed Members) – authority/capability to manage AMR and AMU.

²⁷ <https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GL22-R-st7.pdf>

²⁸ <https://vichsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/GL23R2-st7.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.anses.fr/fr/content/laboratoire-de-fougeres>

³⁰ <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary>

³¹ <https://www.maff.go.jp/nval/english/>; <https://www.maff.go.jp/e/>

³² <https://www.woaha.org/en/what-we-offer/improving-veterinary-services/pvs-pathway/>

56. The WOAHP VPS Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) standard methodology has always addressed AMR-relevant legislation, systematically assessing, e.g., legislation regulating veterinary medicinal products and food safety. VLSP reports continue to show that the most recurrent weaknesses of AMR-relevant legislation are gaps in the legislation governing: i) veterinary medicinal products; ii) the Competent Authority for these products (clear identification, expertise, responsibilities, and powers); iii) withdrawal periods and maximum residue limits; and iv) the use of antimicrobials by the veterinary profession.
57. From 2019, the VLSP undertook additional efforts to strengthen the focus on legislation relevant to AMR, notably: providing inputs to the FAO *Methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector*; developing a pilot questionnaire aiming to assess, in-depth, a Member's AMR-relevant legislation in the veterinary domain; and conducting a first pilot joint FAO-WOAH VLSP mission in the Philippines.
58. From 2021, through a project funded by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), the FAO, WHO, and WOAHP (VLSP) developed a One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance (the OHLAT-AMR)³³, which is intended to assess Members' legislation relevant to respond to AMR under a One Health approach and to identify opportunities to strengthen their existing governance and legal framework. The OHLAT-AMR was built on the abovementioned FAO Methodology, and it developed the animal health component further from the WOAHP VLSP AMR Questionnaire and incorporated the human health aspects.
59. The OHLAT-AMR was piloted from 2022 to 2023 in Morocco, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, and Peru (with, each time, a Report presented in a national workshop). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) joined the project, and the OHLAT-AMR was officially launched in November 2023 through a Virtual Launch Event featuring two sessions with over 650 participants.
60. The OHLAT-AMR was published in September 2025. It is the first tool to focus on legal preparedness for AMR under a One Health approach and facilitates the development of robust and coherent legal frameworks that combine cross-sectoral and sector-specific responses – essential for the regulation of AMR. It thus represents a significant step forward in the global action to curb AMR and WOAHP's capacity building support to Members, building on the initiatives from previous years.
61. WOAHP Recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates', 2012) prepare Day 1 veterinary graduates to promote global veterinary public health and provide a basis for advanced training and education for veterinarians in all WOAHP Members. The WOAHP Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum (2013)³⁴ are a companion to the previous document and aim to assure the quality of education required for the public and private components of the National Veterinary Services. During 2026-27, WOAHP intends to evolve these documents, maintaining a strong focus on the modern cross-sectoral competencies required for veterinarians to address diverse topics such as food systems challenges, AMR, public health, sustainability, biosecurity and emerging global risks.
62. WOAHP has also produced WOAHP Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2018) and WOAHP Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2019)³⁵. The documents for veterinary paraprofessionals include references to AMR and recognise the need to train them to use antibiotics properly.
63. WOAHP has piloted a new type of targeted support activity focused on enhancing Members' ability to use the abovementioned guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) to design or upgrade national VPP training curricula to be harmonised with WOAHP guidelines. The refinement of the methodology for VPP Curriculum Support, which started in 2024 with pilot missions in Senegal, Togo and Georgia, continued in 2025 with missions covering new Members such as Benin, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia. The methodology will be finalised in early 2026.³⁶
64. As a complement to the Day One Competencies for Graduating Veterinarians and the Veterinary Education Core Curriculum and the Competency and Curriculum Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals, WOAHP produced in 2024, through the work of an *ad hoc* group, Competency and Curriculum Guidelines for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). The guidelines are now in the public domain³⁷. One of the core competencies (n°7.1.1) assessed through the WOAHP CAHWs guidelines states that CAHWs explain the differences between the main types of veterinary medicinal

³³ <https://www.qjsamr.org/technical-work/one-health-legislative-assessment-tool-on-amr>

³⁴ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/improving-veterinary-services/pvs-pathway/targeted-support/veterinary-and-veterinary-paraprofessional-education/>

³⁵ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/improving-veterinary-services/pvs-pathway/targeted-support/veterinary-and-veterinary-paraprofessional-education/>

³⁶ <https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/news/pilot-vpp-curriculum-support-mission-in-georgia/#:~:text=On%2018%20%E2%80%93%2030%20September%202022%2C%20Georgia%20requested,to%20WOAH%20guidelines%2C%20led%20by%20VPP%20curriculum%20experts.>

³⁷ [woah-competency-and-curriculum-guidelines-for-cahws-071024.pdf](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/improving-veterinary-services/pvs-pathway/targeted-support/veterinary-and-veterinary-paraprofessional-education/)

products, their respective benefits, handling, usage, and risks, including the development of AMR.

65. The newly developed Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Targeted Support aims to help Members create an enabling environment for private sector engagement in strengthening Veterinary Services. So far, this support has been extended to India³⁸, Tanzania³⁹, Mauritius⁴⁰, and Sri Lanka⁴¹, focusing on identified areas of private sector involvement, including AMR containment. AMR-specific workshops were conducted in Ethiopia⁴², in collaboration with WHO and FAO, to support the implementation of their national action plans for AMR. Additionally, a workshop in the Philippines⁴³ targeted AMR in aquaculture and poultry, also in partnership with FAO.

The WOAAH Training System

66. WOAAH's competency-based training system aims to strengthen Veterinary Services by supporting the effective implementation of WOAAH standards. To achieve this, the system is structured around 16 Competency Packages, which together cover the full scope of WOAAH standards and codes. Within this framework, priority areas such as trade in animal and animal products, and the prudent use of antimicrobials and other veterinary products, are addressed through developed Competency Package Terms of Reference (ToR) defining required competencies and learning pathways for the veterinary workforce. Based on these ToR, WOAAH has developed 11 eLearning modules on trade in animals and animal products⁴⁴ and 5 eLearning modules on the prudent use of antimicrobials and other veterinary products⁴⁵, available in multiple languages on WOAAH eLearning Platform⁴⁶ and designed for self-paced and blended learning. Training priorities are further guided by the Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) integrated into the PVS Pathway Information System, ensuring that capacity-building interventions are evidence-based, targeted and responsive to Members' needs.

WOAH Reference Centres

67. WOAAH's scientific work is supported by its worldwide network. In 2025, WOAAH had a global network of 270 Reference Laboratories⁴⁷ covering 109 diseases or topics in 39 countries, and 80 Collaborating Centres⁴⁸ covering all six main focus areas: almost 36 specialties in 33 countries. The complete lists of Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories are available online at the links given in the relevant footnotes.
68. Collaborating Centres or Reference Laboratories with a particular focus on VMPs or AMR include:

Veterinary Medicinal Products

ANSES Fougères - Agence nationale du médicament vétérinaire (ANMV), B.P. 203
35302 Fougères Cedex
FRANCE

Veterinary Drug Regulatory Programmes

Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Department of Health and Human Services, 7519 Standish Place
HFV-1, Room 177, Rockville, Maryland 20855,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Antimicrobial resistance (Reference Laboratory)

Animal and Plant Health Agency
New Haw, Addlestone,
Surrey KT15 3NB

³⁸ <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/public-private-partnership-ppp-targeted-support-in-india-2/>

³⁹ <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/public-private-partnerships-paving-the-way-for-sustainable-veterinary-services-in-tanzania/>

⁴⁰ <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/news/building-stronger-veterinary-services-through-public-private-collaboration-in-mauritius/>

⁴¹ <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/public-private-partnership-and-strengthening-national-veterinary-services-in-sri-lanka/>

⁴² <https://rr-africa.woah.org/en/trainings/ethiopia-moves-to-enhance-amr-national-action-plan-implementation-through-public-private-partnerships-ppps/>

⁴³ <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/pse-amr-aqua-philippines/>

⁴⁴ <https://training.woah.org/course/index.php?categoryid=157>

⁴⁵ <https://training.woah.org/course/index.php?categoryid=152>

⁴⁶ <https://training.woah.org/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/expertise-network/reference-laboratories/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/expertise-network/collaborating-centres/>

UNITED KINGDOM

Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia

National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH)
3-1-5, Kannondai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-0856

JAPAN

National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL)
1-15-1, Tokura, Kokubunji, Tokyo, 185-8511

JAPAN

Control of Veterinary Drugs in West and Central Africa

École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires, BP 5077 Dakar
SENEGAL

Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture

Laboratory of Veterinary Pharmacology (FARMAVET)

Laboratory of Food Safety (LIA)

Center for Research and Innovation in Aquaculture (CRIA)

University of Chile, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

Santa Rosa 1735, La Pintana, Region Metropolitana
CHILE

Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines

Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
PO Box 1746, Debre Zeit
ETHIOPIA

Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines in the Middle East

Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics (CLEVB)
El-Seka El-Baida St., Abbasia, Cairo
EGYPT

Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas

Center for Veterinary Biologics
USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, P.O. Box 844, Ames, Iowa 50010

Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics
College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Recommendation

69. CCRVDF28 is invited to note the information contained in this document.