



# WAHIS+: a World Animal Health Information System for the 21st century

Outbreaks of animal diseases have wide-reaching impacts – on livelihoods; food safety and security; animal and human health; and trade of animals and animal foods and products. Rapid access to reliable data on such outbreaks is critical for every country in the world because it allows officials to make informed and timely decisions on preventing spread of diseases and for safe but unobstructed cross-border trade in animals, animal products and animal-based foods.

Since 2005, the OIE's web-based platform, the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – which is available to all worldwide free of charge – provides a window onto the state of animal health across the globe. The world already relies on WAHIS – which disseminates information about animal health and sends alerts on animal disease events in real time, through its online platform and a mobile application. Yet today, at a time of rapid change and ever-growing demand for speedy data delivery, the OIE recognizes that WAHIS can and should offer even more.

The OIE is redesigning and upgrading WAHIS to a technologically advanced yet user-friendly form with many previously unavailable features. We call this new platform **WAHIS+**. The core of the system will be completed in 2019, and it will continue to evolve, allowing users to take advantage of a modern and dynamic platform to report their animal health situation.

## A NIMBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY SYSTEM

The refreshed and renovated WAHIS platform will make it easier for users to collect and report information – and upload data from their own databases. The new interface will also allow for data to be viewed, analysed and extracted more rapidly and in different formats. Other features of the platform will include the following:

- WAHIS+ will provide high-quality and reliable geospatial data, which will enable OIE Member Countries to undertake comprehensive risk analyses.
- Data from WAHIS+ will be usable in a variety of analytic programmes.
- Maps will be interactive, allowing for dynamic display of information on animal diseases.
- The WAHIS Alerts mobile application will be updated to allow faster dissemination of disease alerts and instant access to them.
- WAHIS+ will provide straightforward and standardized ways to interconnect with other international or regional information systems and integrate other valuable data sources, so that users can share and mutually enrich data in collaboration with OIE stakeholders.
- The platform will be enhanced to allow for extended data mining, with automatic tools for extraction.
- The genomic data linked to epidemiological data in WAHIS+ will strengthen disease traceability and contribute to analyses on genetic epidemiology.

**WAHIS+ will be a nimble and flexible platform, built to evolve as novel information technologies are developed or international standards change.**



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## WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM WAHIS+?

- **OIE Member Countries** will have a dedicated interface to immediately assess and monitor their complete national animal health situation.
- **The global health security community** will be alerted promptly to potential biothreats related to animal disease.
- **The public health community** will have instant access to data on outbreaks of existing or emerging diseases that are transmitted to humans by animals and therefore be better equipped to formulate appropriate responses.
- **OIE Tripartite Partners (World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization)** will gain interoperability with the WAHIS+ platform, strengthening risk analysis and facilitating prevention of public health and humanitarian emergencies.
- **Academics and researchers** can stay informed and updated on hot topics in animal health. Authors will be able to use WAHIS+ to ensure their scientific papers contain relevant, correct and historically accurate animal health data.
- **Civil society and journalists** will be able to more easily follow news about animal disease outbreaks, understand the role of the OIE and further inform the public.
- **Trading partners and the private sector** will have up-to-minute information on outbreaks, precisely where they occur and when they have ended – allowing for the least possible disruptions of trade of animals and animal products and a safer market.

## WAHIS+ AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Diligent reporting and cooperation through WAHIS+ will contribute to protecting human health and quality of life, economic growth and securing international trade, as called for in the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Investment in WAHIS+ will translate into reinforcing food security (SDG 2), improving health and well-being (SDG3) and enhancing economic growth (SDG8).

WAHIS+ will further contribute to global security overall, since prompt reporting and control of animal disease outbreaks is vital for geopolitical stability. It will be a reliable source of information for artificial intelligence systems, thereby contributing to automated alert systems, predictions or mitigation strategies.

Integration with other databases and platforms will make WAHIS+ a reliable source of knowledge and pave the way for future policy. Data on other OIE programmes, available on WAHIS+, will support development of OIE Member Countries' projects and decisions on investments.

With its potential for construction of dynamic maps, WAHIS+ will allow users to predict emerging trends, including climate change. This approach ensures cost effectiveness and a high return on investment.

### FAST FACTS ON ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH

- **60% of the infectious diseases that affect humans are transmitted by animals, and 75% of emerging diseases have animal origin.**
- Five new human diseases appear every year, of which three are of animal origin.
- There are approximately **29 billion livestock animals** in the world – more than three times the number of human beings.
- WAHIS provides reliable data on more than 110 OIE-listed animal diseases and new emerging diseases.



For more information, visit [www.oie.int/wahisplus](http://www.oie.int/wahisplus)