

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

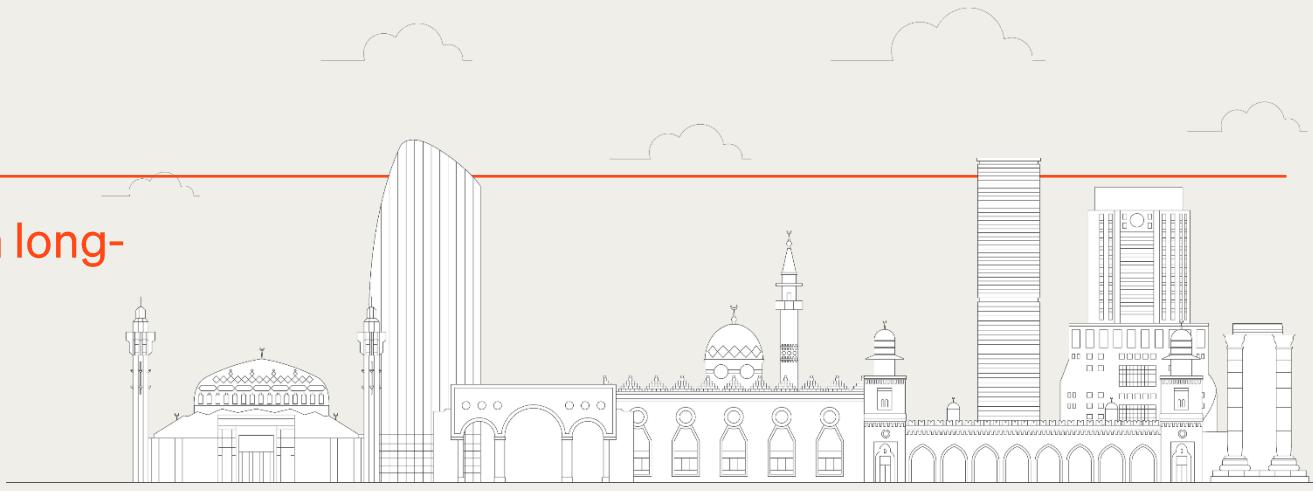
Syria

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Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Overview of country livestock transport and trade

- **Main trading countries and routes (by sea and by land)**

Syria has commercial relations with several countries regarding live animals, most notably: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq, Kuwait, and Turkey. Exports to these countries are carried out by land, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, to which exports are made by land and sea

- **Number of exported/imported animals and trends**

There is no exact statistic and the number is variable

- **Main border control posts / animal holding or quarantine facilities**

There are veterinary quarantine centers at all land, sea and air ports of the country, the most important of which are currently:

Land Quarantine Centers : (Nasib (with Jordan) – Jdeida Yabous (with Lebanon) – Albu Kamal (with Iraq) – Bab Al-Hawa (with Turkey)

Marine quarantine centers: Tartous – Latakia

Air Quarantine Centers: Damascus International Airport





Competent Authority(ies)

What is/are Competent Authority(ies) responsible for animal welfare during transport by land and sea?

The official veterinary authorities, represented by the Directorate of Health and Animal Production, are officially responsible for animals care and coordination with animal owners and transporters to ensure the provision of appropriate conditions for animals during transportation and the presence of competent companions

What is/are the other Authority(ies) involved cross-border transport of animals by land and sea?

Transport authorities located at sea and land ports – customs authorities – transporting companies – animal owners.



National animal welfare standards

What are a minimum animal welfare standards on animal transport established in your country, that include:

- **requirements for inspection of animals before, during and after their travel**
- Animals are quarantined before transport, their health status is monitored daily, blood samples are taken and tested, and the necessary vaccinations are carried out according to the type of animal and international standards according to the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health WOAH, especially for transboundary diseases and epidemic diseases, granting veterinary health certificates, and providing the appropriate feed and clean water
- during travel: Animals are monitored throughout the duration of the trip and the examination is according to the health situation, and the animals are distributed in numbers commensurate with the means of transportation, ensuring the condition of ventilation and floors, providing fodder and water, and taking into account the ease of access for animals in the means of transport to follow up on them permanently until arrival.
- After traveling: the necessary veterinary examinations are carried out to ensure their safety and freedom from diseases, to verify the evidence, and to follow up on the entering procedures.



National animal welfare standards

- **the definition of animal ‘fitness to travel’**
- Eligibility of animal fit for travel:

It means that the animal has met all the health and technical requirements required by the destination countries (quarantine period, tests, immunizations, health certificate, passport, identification chip, age and weight-... etc).



National animal welfare standards

- **certification and record keeping?**

The Veterinary Health Certificate is issued by the Directorate of Health and Animal Production after the issuance of the results of laboratory tests, the end of the quarantine period, and the fulfillment of all the conditions of the destination country, and the border crossings are informed of it as the copies of the certificates, test results and all the documents accompanying the animal are also kept.

- The centers where the animals are quarantined are constantly supervised by the local veterinary authorities, and when they are accepted, it is taken into account that there is enough space to accommodate the animals, their freedom of movement, the availability of ventilation, lighting, places for isolation, treatment, and the provision of all services throughout the quarantine period, in accordance with the conditions, laws and regulations related to the quarries.
- As for the means of transportation, they must be dedicated to transporting animals, and they must accommodate the number to be transported without any congestion, and they have good ventilation and protection from the elements, and they provide the necessary lighting for monitoring, the presence of a suitable mattress that absorbs liquids, and the floors must be solid and non-slippery, and the provision of fodder and water and the ease of delivering it to the animal away from pollution.



National animal welfare standards

What are the standards for the competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues established in your country?

Workers in all fields related to animal welfare must have sufficient technical and technical knowledge in the areas of basic animal care, understanding the needs and behaviors of transported animals, full knowledge of feeding and safe transport techniques, the ability to apply first aid and deal with emergency cases, and provide comfort for animals.



Implementation of the standards

How is the Competent Authority implementing standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

The veterinary authorities, through their cadres in the governorates, are responsible for implementing the standards of animal care during long-distance cross-border transportation as much as possible, and include the following standards:

- Providing suitable places in terms of sufficient space, ventilation, lighting, and cleanliness.
- Use appropriate and safe loading and unloading procedures.
- Providing feed in the necessary quantity and quality, clean water, and comfort upon arrival.
- Regular periodic monitoring of the health status of animals.
- Emergency preparedness procedures.



Monitoring and evaluation

How is the Competent Authority monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

- Regular cross-border inspections and inspections to ascertain the animal's health condition and suitability for travel
- Documentation and Record-Keeping at the border
- Data collection through monitoring reports during transport (availability of feed and water, speed, weather conditions) and upon arrival.



Cross-border transport of animals

What are the procedures, including certification, applicable before and at departure, in transit and at arrival for cross-border transport of animals by land and by sea your country?

- Quarantine animals in a suitable place under the supervision of veterinary authorities. Monitoring animals during quarantine, taking samples and conducting required vaccinations. Issuance of the veterinary health certificate after the end of the quarantine
- Loading into the means of transportation after sterilizing them and ensuring that they meet the required standards
- Ensuring the availability of feed, clean water and adequate emergency treatments for the transport period.
- Coordinating with the rest of the authorities at the border crossings to give priority to the means of transporting animals and expedite their procedures



Cross-border transport of animals

What is the procedure to report back to the sending Competent Authority significant animal welfare problems which occurred during the journey?

- Communicate with the transporter to report any observations regarding animal care during transportation.
- Any observations related to animal welfare during the trip will be informed to the competent authorities in the country of origin through telephone communication if necessary or correspondence via official email.



do you consider that your country is in compliance with WOAH standard regarding animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport of animals by land?

- Syria is constantly seek for adhering to the WOAH standards in all fields as well as the standards related to animal care during long-distance land transportation, and we note here that those in charge of work have acceptable experiences in this field, but they need training to raise efficiency and increase experiences, as well as there is a quarry for imported cows near the Tartous sea port and a horse quarry near the border crossing of Jadida Yabous with Lebanon. These quarries play an important role in the implementation of international standards aimed at animal welfare, but they need to be rehabilitated to meet the level required for the application of these standards.



the main gaps/weaknesses or challenges for the Competent Authority(ies) in your country to implement WOAH standards and country legislation and requirements on animal transport.

Weaknesses:

- Weak funding for aspects related to animal welfare standards
- Developing and updating national legislation in line with animal welfare standards
- The need for training courses for cadres working in this field to raise their efficiency and increase their experience.
- Rehabilitation of all quarries at border points.
- Weakness of laboratory diagnostic capabilities for diseases and the necessary laboratory supplies and equipment.
- Weakness and lack of transportation means for transporting animals and lack of experience of drivers.

Thank you

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