WOAH standards and initiatives for strengthening veterinary products regulation



Dr Mereke Taitubayev
WOAH Sub-Regional Representative for Central Asia

Georgia | 2026

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal
Fundada como OIE

Index

1. Global overview of veterinary products regulatory systems
2. WOAH international standards and initiatives to strengthen regulatory systems
3. Contribution to AMR control, trade and public health

Section 1
Global overview

Veterinary products (vaccines, medicines and diagnostic kits) are regulated very differently around the world. What are the main building blocks, and where are the gaps?

What veterinary products regulation protects



Quality of biologicals
Potent, safe and pure vaccines and diagnostic kits



Food safety
Control of residues and respect of withdrawal periods



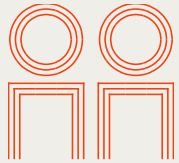
Animal health and welfare
Effective products to prevent and treat disease



Veterinary oversight
Prescription and use under professional supervision



Environment
Limiting the impact of manufacture, use and disposal



Public health
Fewer zoonoses and a lower risk of antimicrobial resistance

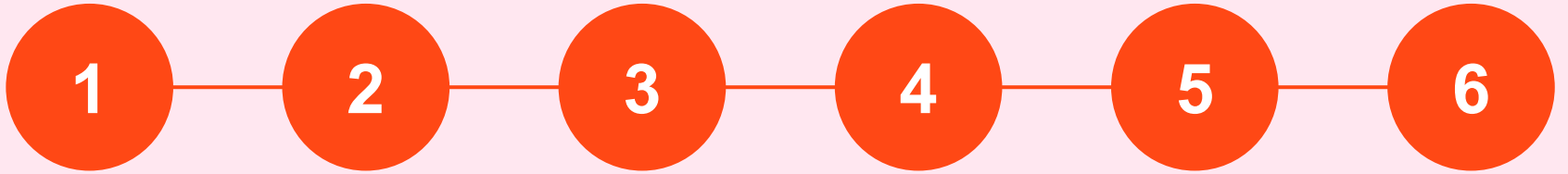


Farmers' access
Licensed outlets and affordable, quality-assured products



Aquatic animals
Suitable products and prudent use in aquaculture

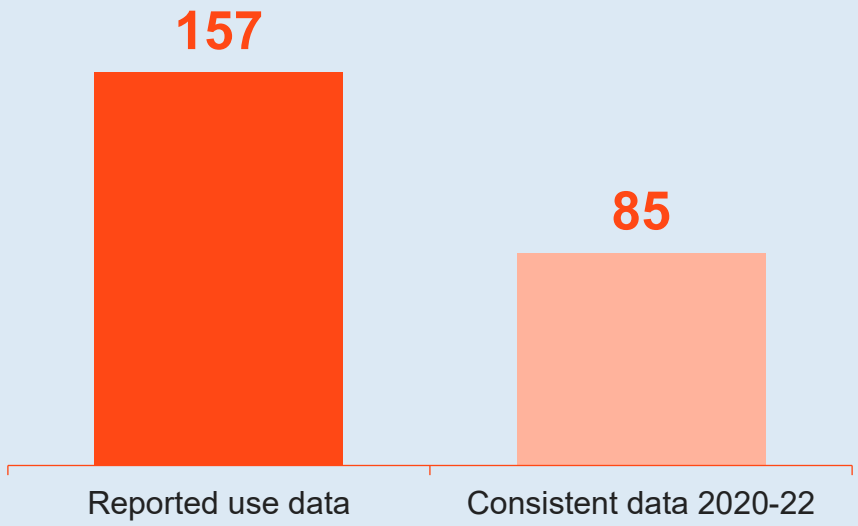
Core elements of a regulatory system



1	2	3	4	5	6
Legal framework	**Marketing authorisation**	**Manufacturing and quality**	**Import and distribution**	**Prescription and use**	**Post-market surveillance**
Roles, powers and sanctions of the Veterinary Authority	Quality, safety and efficacy assessed before sale	GMP and testing of vaccines, medicines and diagnostics	Licensed operators and a controlled supply chain	Professional oversight and prudent use of antimicrobials	Safety monitoring, inspection and sampling

Common gaps in regulatory systems

Antimicrobial use data: number of countries



Only 85 countries gave consistent quantitative data across 2020-22

Growth promoters still in use



of reporting countries use antimicrobials as growth promoters

Other common gaps

- **Fragmented legislation**
- **Weak quality control after registration**
- **Substandard and falsified products**
- **Uneven vaccine access**

Section 2
WOAH standards and initiatives

Science-based standards, guidelines and initiatives adopted by WOAH Members help countries strengthen and align national veterinary products regulation.

WOAH international standards for veterinary products

Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Chapter 3.4 on veterinary legislation, including the quality of veterinary medicines and biologicals, and Section 6 on antimicrobial resistance (surveillance, monitoring of use, prudent use)

Aquatic Animal Health Code: Section 6 on the prudent use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals

Terrestrial Manual: standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, including the principles of veterinary vaccine production (Chapter 1.1.8)

Guidance: WOAH List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance; guidelines for national procurement of vaccines

Adoption: by the World Assembly of Delegates, applicable to all Members







How WOAH supports its Members

- National Focal Points for Veterinary Products
- VICH harmonisation of technical requirements
- PVS Pathway and veterinary legislation support
- Action on substandard and falsified veterinary products (SFVPs)
- ANIMUSE global database on antimicrobial use
- **Country application:** use PVS findings to prioritize gaps in legislation, authorization, quality control and post-market surveillance

Section 3
AMR, trade and public health

Well-regulated veterinary products protect animals, people and trade. We also work with FAO, UNEP and WHO to turn this into country action.

Why it matters

157

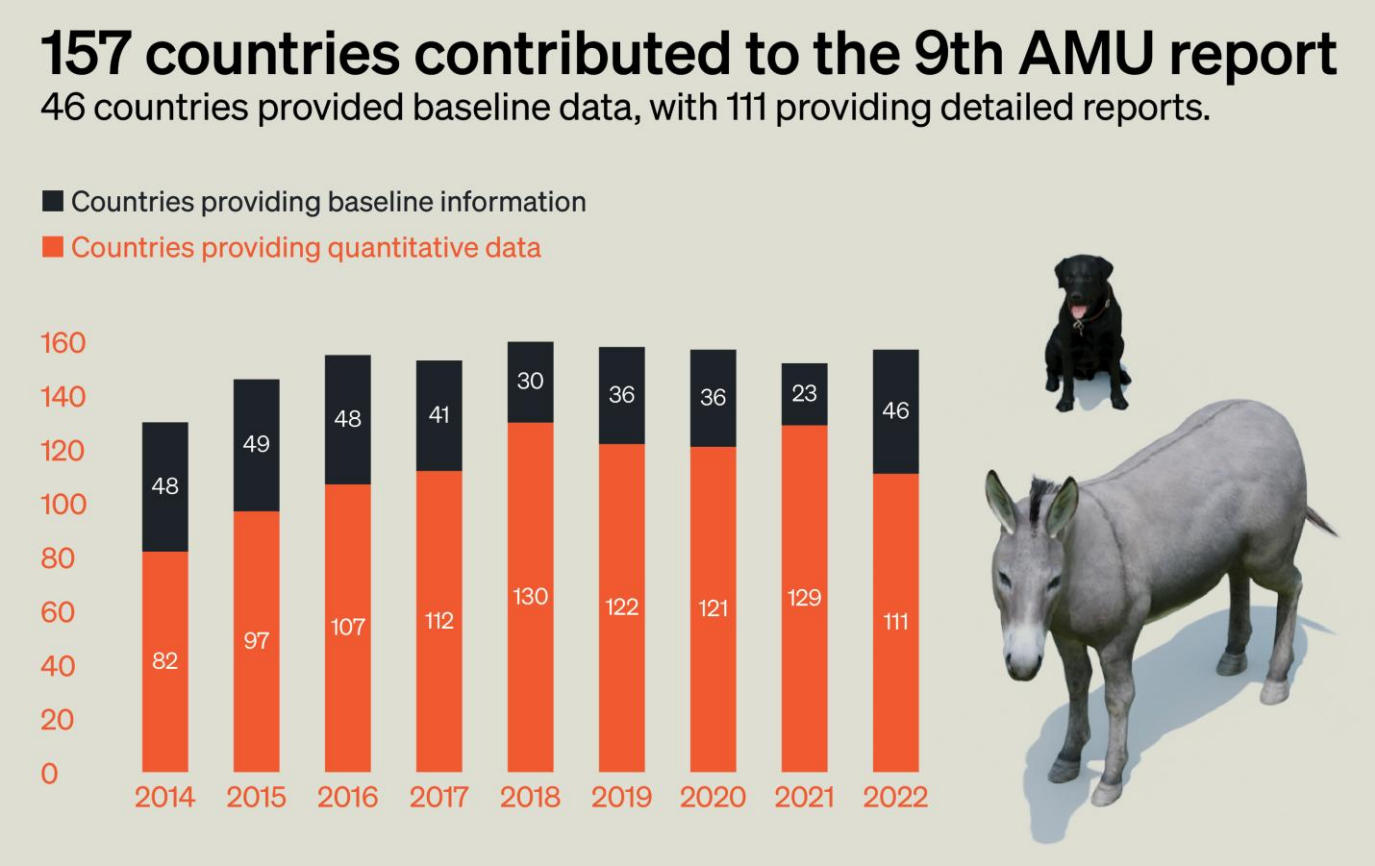
countries contributed to the 9th WOAH report on antimicrobial use in animals

-5%

global antimicrobial use in animals between 2020 and 2022 (85 countries)

1 in 5

countries still use antimicrobials as growth promoters



https://www.woah.org/en/article/less-antimicrobial-use-in-animals-a-win-for-everyone/

Source: WOAH ANIMUSE, 9th annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals (2025)

Contribution to AMR control, trade and public health

- AMR: prescription control and prudent use
- Trade: quality-assured products, harmonised rules
- Public health: safer food and fewer residues
- Prevention: vaccines reduce the need for antibiotics
- Partnership: One Health with FAO, UNEP and WHO

Central Asia:

2023 – AMR MPTF in Tajikistan

2026 – AMR MPTF in the Kyrgyz Republic

1. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) is the UN pooled-funding mechanism that supports countries to implement multisectoral AMR national action plans
2. FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH (the Quadripartite) deliver the project in partnership with national authorities
3. Duration: 36 months
4. Context: the project supports revision and operationalisation of the National Action Plan
5. Focus: stronger coordination, monitoring and sustainable financing across human, animal and environmental health
6. Opportunity: WOAH standards give a basis for stronger oversight of veterinary medicines and antimicrobial use in the new plan

Well-regulated veterinary products protect animals, people and trade. WOAH standards and partnerships help countries get there.

Key message

Next: the following session introduces TRUVET and practical reporting tools for substandard and falsified veterinary products.

Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.org
www.woah.org

Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
LinkedIn
YouTube
Flickr

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal
Fundada como OIE

