

**Progress in support,
dialog and implementation of
avian influenza vaccination**

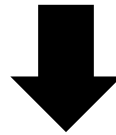
**Gounalan Pavade
WOAH**

**Paris
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Acknowledgements: Mariana, Yuka, Gregorio, Lina, Alexandre

WOAH establishes standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including the prevention of disease spread through international trade of animals and animal products.

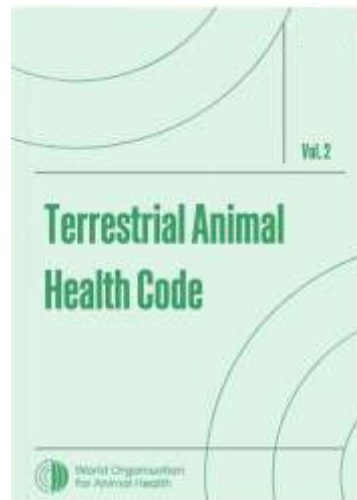
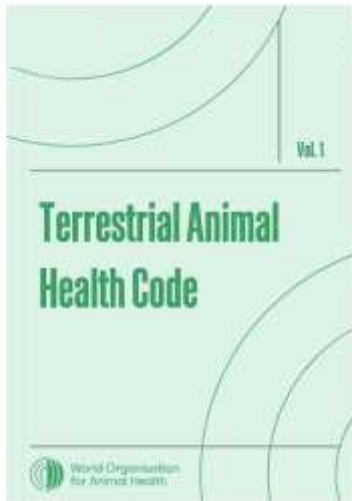
WOAH is recognised by the WTO SPS Agreement as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.



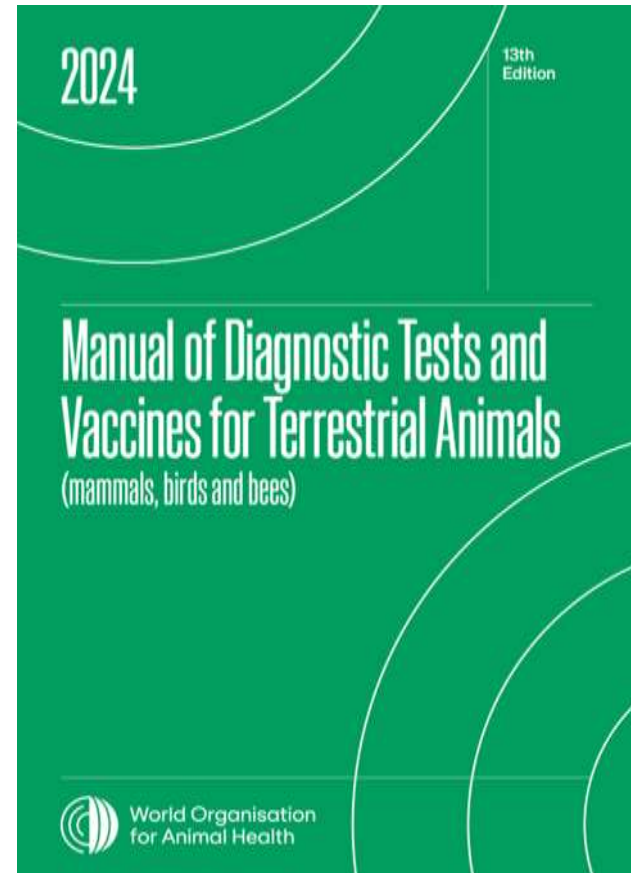
WOAH standards contribute to a science based trading system by supporting international harmonisation.



Codes



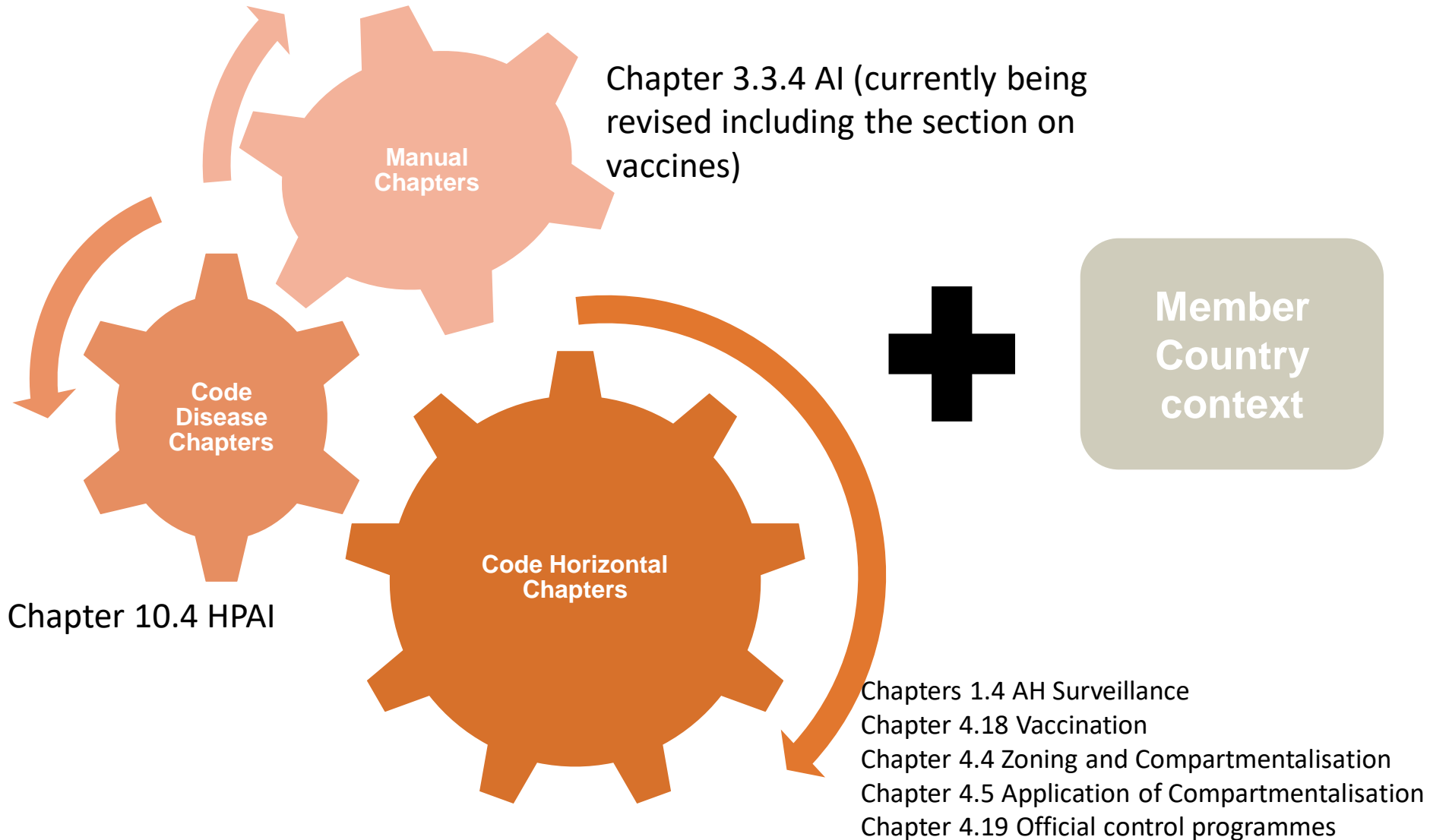
Manuals





Key points on vaccination

1. Vaccination against HPAI is an effective complementary control tool when stamping out policy alone is not sufficient
2. Vaccination does not affect HPAI status of a free country or zone if surveillance supports the absence of infection
3. Vaccination is decided by the Veterinary Authority based on the HPAI situation as well as the ability of the Veterinary Services to implement vaccination and the appropriate surveillance strategy.
4. Tests to be performed to ensure the absence of virus circulation, at a frequency proportionate to the risk, use of sentinel poultry may provide further confidence.
5. Evidence to show the effectiveness of the vaccination programme should also be provided.
6. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* provides the standards for high quality avian influenza vaccines.

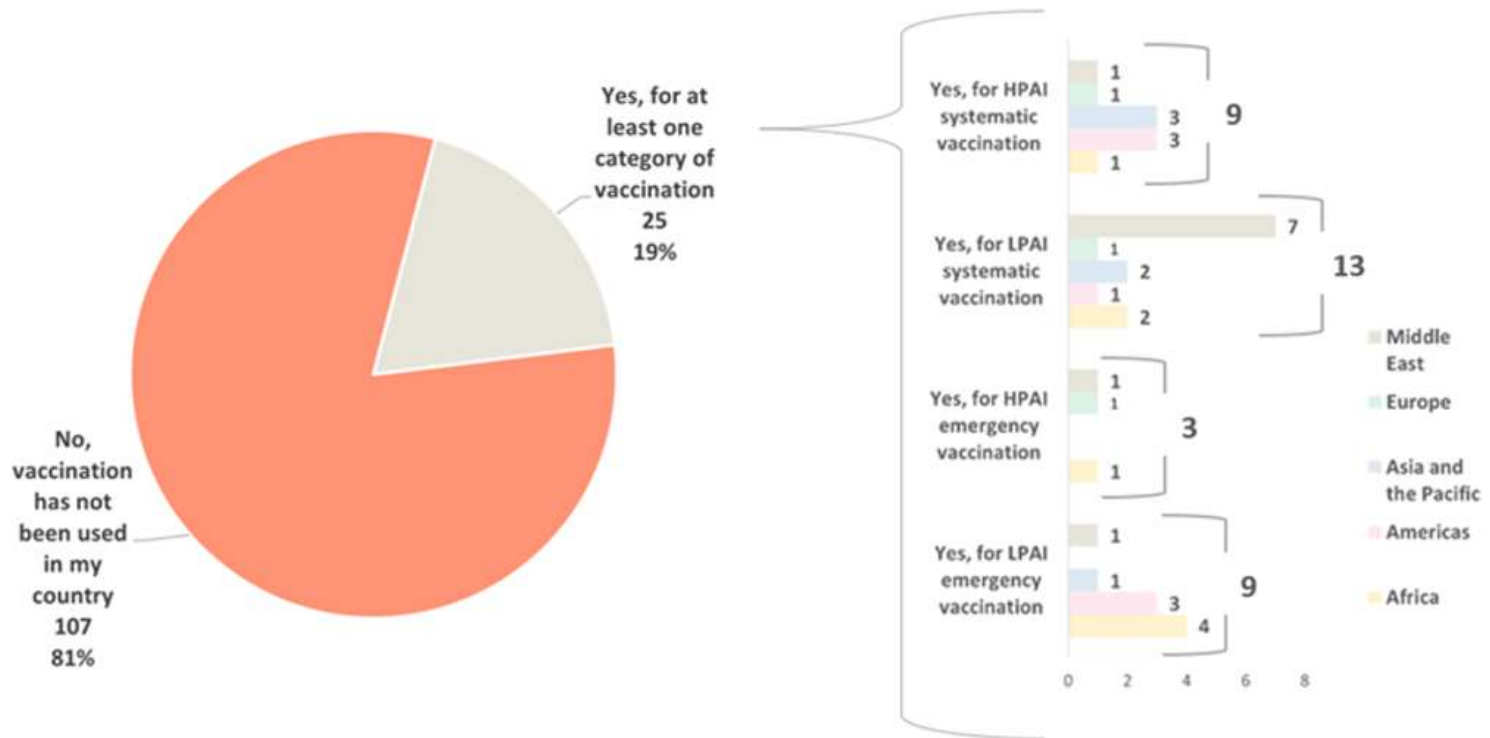




Q: In the last five years, has vaccination (*Terrestrial Animal Health Code Article 4.18.2*) been used as one of the control measures for LPAI or HPAI?

81% (107/133 Members) did not use any sort of vaccination for HPAI or LPAI in the past five years.

However, 19% (25/133 Members) reported using at least one type of vaccination, either for HPAI or LPAI.

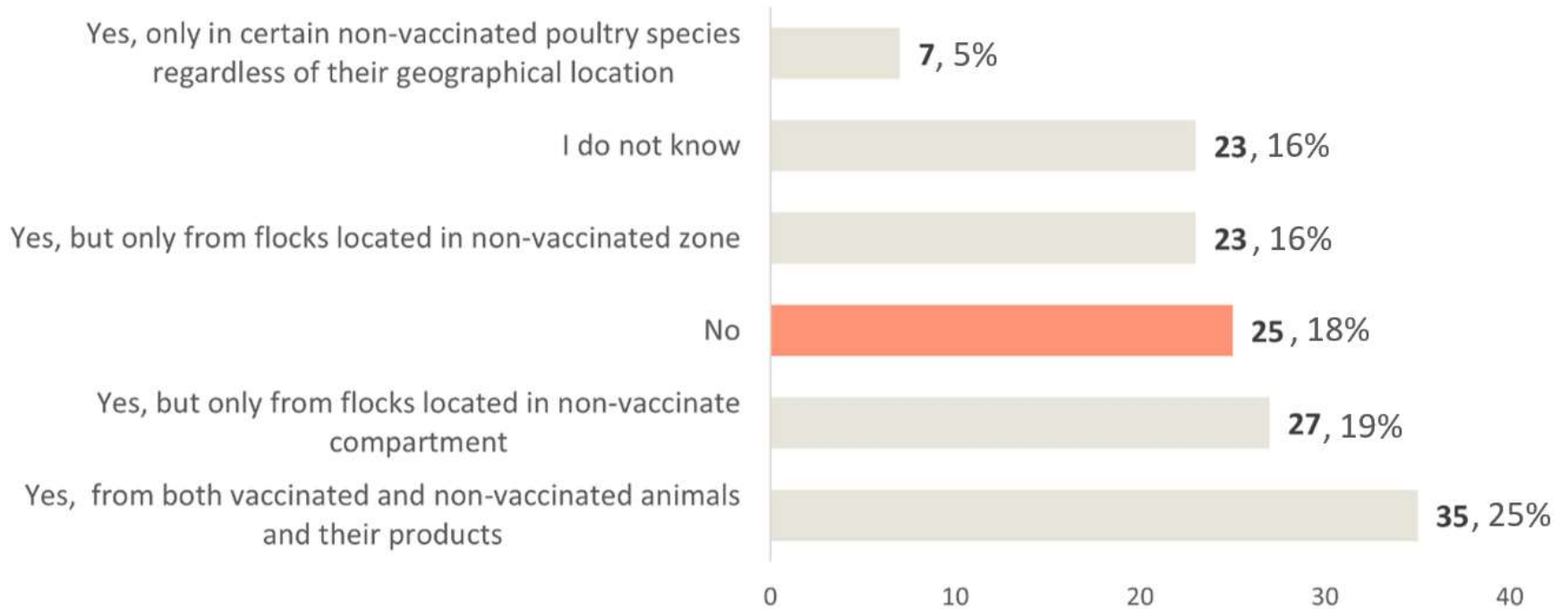




Q: Is your country currently considering vaccination as a complementary tool for the control of Avian Influenza?

- Half of the respondents are not considering the use of vaccination as a HPAI complementary control tool citing its impact on surveillance, international trade, silent infections
- The European (56%, 23/41 Members), American (60%, 18/30 Members), and African (61%, 25/41 Members) regions had a similarly high percentage of respondents supporting the potential use of vaccines.
- The main challenges regarding vaccination is that it would make surveillance too difficult, would jeopardise international trade in poultry and it will be a concern for silent infections that will jeopardise early warning systems.
- Most of the Members (57%, 73/128 Members) considered it feasible to implement WOAHP-recommended surveillance in vaccinated poultry flocks, while 32% (41/128 Members) are unsure of its feasibility. Out of 128 Members, only 11% (14 respondents) believed that implementing WOAHP-recommended surveillance is not possible, and their reason for this is mainly due to constraints in human and financial resources

Acceptance to import poultry products in compliance with WOAAH Standards if the exporting partner implemented vaccination against HPAI



The **HPAI Animal Health Forum** offered an opportunity for Delegates and subject matter experts to have open discussions and agree on how to best tackle HPAI.



Technical Item:
Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza



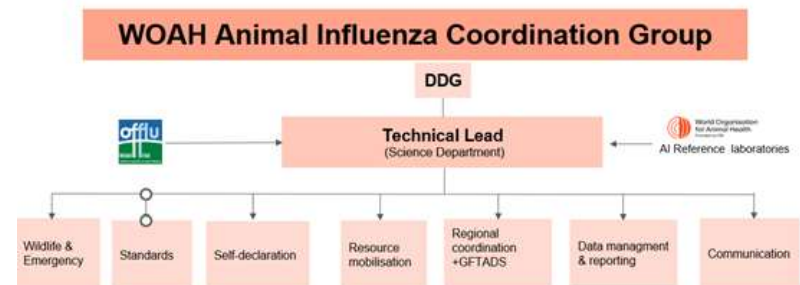
Resolution 28:
Strategic Challenges in the Global Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza



Policy to Action: The case of Avian Influenza – Reflections for Change



Implementation framework
(May 2023 – May 2025)





RESOLUTION No. 28

Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Members**, in consultation with the poultry sector may consider the implementation of vaccination **as a complementary disease control tool** that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors such as circulating virus strains, risk assessment and vaccination implementation conditions.
2. **Members adopt vaccine best practices (stewardship)** and reassess on an ongoing basis the use of appropriately field matched vaccine strains and the continuing need for update of vaccines.
3. **Members** respect and implement the adopted WOAHA standards and **recognise compliant use of vaccination without negative consequences on trade**, when the vaccination programme is supported by vaccination monitoring and disease surveillance systems that can demonstrate the effectiveness of vaccination and absence of infection.
4. **WOAH**, with the support of its Reference Laboratories and OFFLU, provide up-to-date information to Members, the poultry sector and vaccine manufacturers on the **genetic and antigenic characterisation of circulating virus strains**, including comparison with existing vaccines, to infer levels of protection.
5. **Members** ensure the **use of authorised vaccines** manufactured according to WOAHA standards that are effective against circulating strains and regularly share information related to the effectiveness of the vaccination programme and their surveillance system to inform changes in vaccination strategies and policy.
6. **WOAH**, in partnership with other international organisations and the private sector, develop guidance considering different production systems, to support the implementation of standards, such as on biosecurity, surveillance including vaccinated populations, and on the implementation of vaccination, Zoning and Compartmentalization



Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade

Since 2005, over 500 million birds lost to the disease worldwide. Its devastating impact extends beyond domestic and wild birds, **threatening livelihoods, food security and public health.**

The rapidly evolving nature of avian influenza and changes in its patterns of spread require a review of existing prevention and control strategies. To effectively contain the disease, protect the economic sustainability of the poultry sector and reduce potential pandemic risks, all available tools must be reconsidered – including vaccination



Key facts



The epidemiology of avian influenza is evolving: the disease is gradually losing its seasonal nature, and high pathogenicity strains are circulating in wild birds.



This intensified circulation increases the likelihood of virus evolution and spillover to new species, including mammals, posing a risk to human health.



All available science-based disease control tools must be considered. In certain epidemiological contexts, vaccination can be an effective complement to other control strategies.



If properly implemented, vaccination should not be a barrier to safe trade.



Wider use of vaccination stimulates research innovation, improving the quality of available vaccines.

Considering vaccination as part of available avian influenza control measures

Responsibilities of countries opting for poultry vaccination

Vaccination is compatible with the pursuit of safe trade in poultry and poultry products

Policy recommendations

Decision-making

Monitoring and evaluation

International cooperation, including trade





Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza (2024-2033)
In brief

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE REVISED GLOBAL STRATEGY

- It provides high-level strategic direction for global and regional coordination to support the development and/or revision of national and regional action plans for HPAI prevention and control. It is not intended to be prescriptive or binding.
- It emphasizes the need for a One Health approach and puts a focus on poultry value chains and measures that can significantly reduce the burden of HPAI.

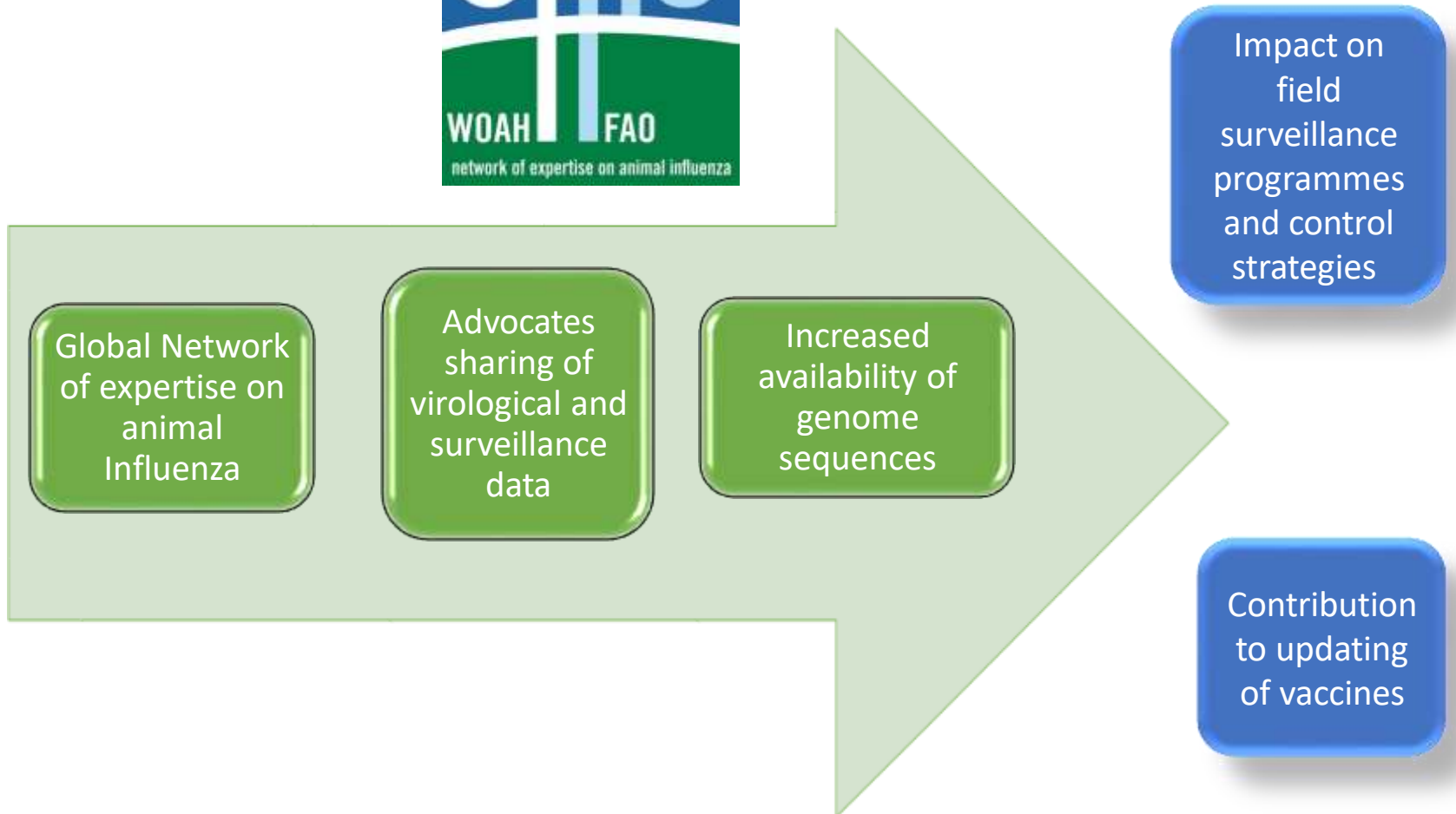
BACKGROUND

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), have collaboratively drafted a revised ten-year global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in response to the continued intercontinental spread and changes in the circulating HPAI virus (H5N1/Guangdong (Gt/GD) lineage, especially 2.3.4.4b clade). This replaces the strategy published in 2007 in response to the initial emergence of the H5N1/Gt/GD lineage in Asia.

The revised strategy emphasizes a systems approach to contextualize the threat of HPAI against the backdrop of other global concerns and work towards long-term transformative change in the poultry sector. There is a strong focus on the One Health approach to ensure integrated collaboration with public health, wildlife and environmental sectors to prevent, protect and transform poultry value chains against HPAI. It encourages the use of established and innovative means of protecting poultry value chains to reduce the burden of infections and losses. The revised strategy provides a framework

- **Prevent** HPAI epidemics, zoonoses and negative impacts on human health and ecosystems through multisectoral early detection and control
- **Protect** poultry value chains, livelihoods, trade, and the health of humans, animals, ecosystems from HPAI impacts
- **Transform** poultry value chains to improve resilience to HPAI and other disease threats.







OBJECTIVE:

To provide up-to date information to the poultry sector, governments, and poultry vaccine manufacturers on antigenic characteristics of circulating avian influenza viruses including comparisons with vaccine antigens. This information will facilitate selection of appropriate vaccines for poultry and updating of poultry vaccine antigens in places where vaccines are being used.

TIMELINES:

- ❑ AIM pilot study started in December 2022
- ❑ AIM pilot report published in October 2023 (<https://www.offlu.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/OFFLU-AIM-REPORT-2023.pdf>)
- ❑ AIM webinar (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPdiaY4tf_k)
- ❑ AIM 2nd technical report published in July 2024 (https://www.offlu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/OFFLU-AIM-Technical-report_Final-1.pdf)



1. GF-TADs Technical meeting on HPAI vaccination for Americas (March, 2023)

<https://rr-americas.woah.org/en/events/technical-meeting-on-hpai-vaccination/>

2. GFTAD Standing Group of experts on HPAI for Europe (May 2023)

5. Members' Veterinary Authorities and WOA Reference Laboratories for avian influenza exchange information related to the development, testing and use of vaccines against HPAI and modelling activities that inform collective assessment of possible vaccination strategies and policy contributing to ensure that proper vaccination is implemented avoiding use of unreliable vaccines or wrong vaccination strategies ensuring also that surveillance in vaccinated populations is robust and capable of detecting infection with wild-type viruses.
6. Members encourage research institutions and vaccine manufacturers to invest and collaborate on research and development of effective and safe HPAI vaccines adapted to different species of poultry in accordance with the standards in the Terrestrial Manual;

3. Regional workshop for avian disease prevention and control in Asia and the Pacific, Qingdao, People's Republic of China (August 2023)

- In consultation with the poultry sector, may consider the implementation of vaccination as a complementary disease control tool that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors such as circulating virus strains, risk assessment and vaccination implementation conditions with an exit strategy.



Thank you

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