ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION IN MEMBERS IN THE REGION DURING 2019 AND 2020

24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

9 to 11 February 2021 - Virtual meeting

World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department,
Lina Awada, Natalja Lambergeon, Peter Melens, Roberta Morales, Paolo Tizzani and Paula Caceres

This report provides an update on the status of OIE-WAHIS implementation and future perspectives, followed by a summary of the animal health situation in the Africa Region during the period 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021. This animal health situation report is principally based on the information submitted to the OIE by 57 countries and territories[1] in the Africa Region through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and includes: i) a global update on animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2 reported to the OIE; ii) a summary of the situation in the Region regarding infection with foot and mouth disease virus; iii) a summary of the situation in the Region regarding infection with African swine fever virus; and iv) a summary of the situation in the Region regarding infection with peste des petits ruminants virus.

In 2020, Members were asked to submit all their 2019 six-monthly reports through the former WAHIS by 15 June 2020, so that the 2019 data could be migrated to new OIE-WAHIS before its launch. Members were also informed that after the launch they would be expected to submit their 2020 six-monthly reports through the new OIE-WAHIS. The OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department observed the following submission rates for the 2019 six-monthly reports by Members of the Africa Region by 15 June 2020 (Members that submitted both six-monthly reports): 61% for terrestrial animal diseases and 35% for aquatic animal diseases. Members are reminded that after the launch of OIE-WAHIS, they will be expected to submit the missing 2019 reports as soon as possible using this new platform before entering data for their 2020 six-monthly reports.

A. Update on OIE-WAHIS

1. Background and progress on OIE-WAHIS

The need for a comprehensive and responsive surveillance system is particularly important given today's increasingly complex risk environment. Factors such as the increased movement of people, animals, goods and commodities, the intensification of animal production, and climate change, *inter alia*, mean that disease transmission progresses more rapidly and in more varied ways than in the past. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for transparent and rapid reporting of important animal and public health events.

There is a clear need to improve the structural architecture of the current WAHIS, which underlies the acquisition, accessibility and usability of animal health data to enhance decision-making capacities at national, regional and international level (particularly relevant for transboundary animal diseases). A lack of interoperability with global, regional and national databases results in duplicative and

[1] This number includes the 54 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, as well as Mayotte (France), Reunion (France) and St. Helena (United Kingdom)

burdensome reporting and costly time lags owing to manual data integration and analysis; this can also be a source of errors, which may lead to incorrect decision-making and negatively impact trade. The inability to harness animal health information easily has also made it more difficult to conduct research and studies, given that WAHIS is the only global source of historical animal health information from which to derive trends and conduct temporal analyses.

In view of the above, the OIE has, since 2016, embarked on the renovation of the WAHIS platform in collaboration with its users and partners. The new version of the platform is called OIE-WAHIS.

In order to facilitate the development of this multi-functional platform and make it available to users as soon as possible, it will go live in two releases:

- Release 1 (going live early 2021): this will incorporate the main functionalities for immediate notifications/follow-up reports, six-monthly reports, mapping, basic interoperability, and the public interface. All historical data since 2005 will be migrated. Some limitations will still exist but enhancements will be included in Release 2. Feedback mechanisms are in place to consider improvements for the future. Additionally, the OIE will launch its new Alert application (app) a few weeks after the platform goes live.

- Release 2 (estimated launch in the second semester of 2021): this will incorporate the main functionalities for the annual report (AR), the voluntary report on non-OIE-listed wildlife diseases (WAR), a dedicated public interface for wildlife diseases, and enhancements to functionalities that were limited in Release 1.

Development progress of OIE-WAHIS was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Release 1 development has now been completed and is undergoing final testing. A progress report was presented internally to OIE staff at Headquarters and in the Regions during virtual OIE luncheon sessions in June and August 2020.

Alongside the development of OIE-WAHIS, a dedicated Change Management Process has been put in place. Since October 2019, Key User meetings have been organised using digital technology and involving Members in all OIE Regions. These meetings provided an opportunity for feedback and buy-in regarding use of the new platform. This mechanism will be maintained during Release 2. New e-learning modules for OIE-WAHIS were designed and these went live in January 2020; face-to-face training sessions were organised in February 2020 focusing on delivering a better learning experience for users prior to system go-live. The face-to-face training for national Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was replaced by fit-for-purpose webinars. New e-learning exercises were launched in December 2020 to consolidate the knowledge gained in previous on-line and face to face training events. Further e-learning modules will be developed for the AR and WAR. The OIE is also exploring opportunities for training of Aquatic and Wildlife Focal Points, as well as the use of ‘bite size’ webinars to support users. In addition, users encountering day-to-day issues with using OIE-WAHIS will be able to count on a dedicated support desk at OIE Headquarters and assistance from the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. A communication plan is being implemented to keep all stakeholders informed about the transition and go-live of OIE-WAHIS. Regional and Sub-Regional Representation staff will function as ‘ambassadors’ to encourage buy-in and awareness.

2. Preparation for transition

Over the last few months, the project team and the OIE WAHIAD (World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department) team have been working together intensively to ensure the platform can be launched with all the bugs and limitations fixed and with all the planned functionalities available.

WAHIAD staff members are currently carrying out final user acceptance testing before a final decision is made regarding a launch date.

The submission of six-monthly reports for 2019 ended on 15 June 2020, to enable the team to migrate these reports along with all historical immediate notifications, follow-up reports and six-monthly reports into the new OIE-WAHIS. We will not be verifying or validating any six-monthly reports submitted since that date. Any outstanding six-monthly reports should be submitted directly via the new platform after the launch. Reports that were submitted in time but have not yet been validated will be migrated and validated in the new platform. Any six-monthly reports present in the old WAHIS in draft format will not be dealt with by the team; reporting users will therefore have to re-enter them into the new OIE-WAHIS after it has been launched.

The OIE will carry out a registration campaign for all existing reporting users around the go-live date. Please keep an eye out for an email communication on this and follow the instructions in the email. If any issues arise, please contact the support mailbox (wahis-support@oie.int) for assistance. This dedicated support desk function will be established to deal with any user queries. The support mailbox will be monitored Monday to Friday from 8.00 AM to 7.00 PM Paris time. To accommodate time differences and assist users with any simple urgent queries, some Regional and Sub-Regional Representation staff members have been trained in the use of the new platform.

In addition to the dedicated support desk, which can be contacted by email from within the system using the 'help' section, a number of other support tools will be available: an extensive user manual, frequently asked questions, and tool tips to help reporting users complete their reports.

Prior to the launch, all user access to the old WAHIS will be revoked. Until that time, all immediate notifications and follow-up reports can continue to be submitted in the old WAHIS. After that time, and until the actual go-live date, immediate notifications can be submitted by sending an electronic form to the WAHIAD mailbox (information.dept@oie.int). Instructions will be communicated to all OIE Delegates and Focal Points nearer to go-live. Once the platform goes live, users can submit immediate notifications, follow-up reports and six-monthly reports into the new OIE-WAHIS.

After go-live, the OIE will monitor the functionalities of the new platform for approximately 4 weeks. If any major issues arise, we will have the possibility to roll-back to the old platform. Any such decision and information on subsequent actions will be clearly communicated to all users. Once the OIE is satisfied that the platform is functioning as it should, we will launch the new Alerts app. This will be announced in a dedicated communication to all users. The new Alerts app will be downloadable from the App store for Android users and from the Apple store for Apple product users. The old Alerts app will not be updated between the go-live of OIE-WAHIS and the launch of the new app.

Annual reports and the voluntary report for non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife will only become operational in Release 2. Any outstanding reports should not be submitted before the Release 2 go-live date. If any users need to gain access to historical data contained in the annual reports or wildlife reports, they should submit their request to WAHIAD (information.dept@oie.int) and one of our epidemiologists will then extract the information from the old WAHIS platform.

3. Highlights of the most impactful features of the new platform

When the OIE embarked on development of OIE-WAHIS in 2016 it envisaged a much improved strategic tool to address the animal and public health challenges of tomorrow. Throughout the development of the platform, these principles have been maintained as functional parameters for success:

OIE-WAHIS will:

- **Business processes**
  - Present a more intuitive and friendly user interface that is flexible and faster during data entry, thus improving disease reporting compliance and data quality;
  - Provide a flexible structure capable of evolving in time in line with OIE international standards;
  - Enable access to all the OIE's historical animal health e-data available since 1996 (after Release 2);
  - Allow for data analysis and acquisition by users through integration of business intelligence (BI) technologies;
  - Empower the OIE to increase output of high value-added work to efficiently provide appropriate data analyses and other information for decision-making;
  - Integrate the OIE's official recognition of status for priority diseases, including interaction between data and maps related to the official disease status (after Release 2);

- **IT system**
  - Be technically supported by a designated IT specialist to manage performance monitoring, tracking and resolving potential incidents and the required evolution of the system over time;
  - Be quicker, more user-friendly and include a dynamic geographic information system (GIS) with the latest up-to-date mapping technologies; this application will be the main support to display the information and provide maximum business performance;
  - Enable improved response time for queries;
  - Further interconnectivity with national, regional, global and other databases and platforms;
  - Allow for opportunities to scale up and incorporate future technological advancements through evolutive maintenance of the system;

- **Stakeholders and users**
  - Permit integration with other databases and platforms;
  - Enable extended data mining with the development of automated tools for extraction that will greatly facilitate access to WAHIS information to improve analysis and better communicate on risk;
  - Become an intelligent data entry platform embedding the capacity to gather and analyse data and assist in the data entry process, making it more intuitive for end users;
  - Comprise an online training portal, which will accommodate theoretical and practical courses oriented towards the improvement of animal disease notification to the OIE. This will strengthen the OIE's capacity-building programme and will support all change management processes;
  - Be a useful tool to inform national government decision-making processes relating to animal diseases (including zoonoses) and safe trade;
  - Include a mobile application, which will allow instant access to disease alerts and their faster dissemination to a growing number of highly mobile stakeholders internationally, thereby extending the core of the WAHIS 'early warning system'.

Of specific interest are a number of new features, with a high impact for both reporting and consulting users:

3.1. Redesigned public interface

The new OIE-WAHIS makes the information on the global animal health situation available to everyone through its public interface. This information can easily be consulted by country/region, by disease or by type of report in a simple and structured way. It incorporates validated data since 2005. The OIE-WAHIS homepage gives an overview of the most recent events (alert notifications), and these can also be viewed on an interactive world map. Additionally, users can access from the homepage the report management section, dedicated regular summary reports provided by WAHIAD (e.g. African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza update reports), and an analytics section providing dedicated dashboards for analysis.

3.2. Analytics and dedicated dashboards

Filter capability and extraction of data have been enhanced to enable combined searches. Dedicated dashboards enable users to search by disease, country or animal species. Additionally, our OIE team of veterinary epidemiologists has been trained to use business intelligence software (Qlik Sense) to build new dashboards if required. The public interface and back office are supported by improved mapping capabilities. Enhanced analytical features are available at the back office for each country, enabling countries to analyse the evolution of events and use their own information for policy development and risk-based decision-making. All information, including maps, can be exported in a variety of formats.

3.3. A modern mapping system

The new platform uses Mapbox technology and data from the Global Administrative Areas Database (GADM). Advanced mapping tools will include the following: layer selection; legends; the ability to measure distance between outbreaks; the ability to draw an area around outbreaks; selection of an outbreak to view a summary of the event; annotations and exporting capabilities. Maps will be exportable in a variety of formats. In addition, from Release 2, users will be able to extract information from a layer or from a buffer zone around an outbreak.

3.4. A dedicated back office

A back office restricted to country-specific reporting users will not only allow for easy guided data entry and overview of reports but will also include a dashboard to enable countries to view progress in their reporting. Simplified and user-guided data entry will result in increased transparency.

3.5. A new Alerts app

Major enhancements for the Alerts app will include an improvement in map quality. From Release 2, users will be able to consult not only by outbreak but also by event. Enhanced filters will be available for users to receive relevant alerts in a timely manner.

4. A focus on interoperability

The OIE has reaffirmed its commitment to implement interoperability and connectivity with national and regional systems, and the platforms of partner international organisations (FAO, WHO, etc.). The OIE strategy to interconnect will be based on principles designed to simplify the exchange of data and avoid the need for double entry, which is both burdensome and a potential source of errors. The

relevant application programming interfaces (APIs) have been developed and will be released to national and regional authorities with the aim of enabling them to interconnect with OIE-WAHIS.

As a proof of concept of interoperability, the OIE and the EC are currently running the ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) project to establish connectivity between OIE-WAHIS and the EU regional animal disease platform as a single data entry point for EU Member States.

The OIE has already foreseen several initiatives to interconnect OIE-WAHIS with other OIE systems or partners:

- The OIE has started its Codification project, the objective being to create an international data standard for the main concepts of animal health data, starting with transboundary animal diseases. It is foreseen that the codification principles will be integrated in future in the OIE-WAHIS platform.

- The OIE Antimicrobial Use (AMU) project foresees the setting up of a tool to collect data from Members to compile the OIE Annual Report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. The aim is for this AMU tool to be interconnected with the OIE-WAHIS annual report to gather data on animal populations.

- Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) is a partnership between Liverpool University (United Kingdom) and the OIE that will work with multiple stakeholder organisations holding data on the livestock sector, animal health and economics. Several possibilities to interconnect with OIE-WAHIS are envisioned.

For Release 1, simple APIs, which are sets of functions and procedures allowing the creation of applications that access the features or data of an operating system, application, or other service, will be published to enable any user or organisation to extract early warning and monitoring information from the platform. For Release 2, APIs will be adapted to add extra functionalities and allow extraction of data on annual and wildlife reports. Interoperability enabling animal health information to be pushed into OIE-WAHIS from other organisations will be developed after Release 2.

Building bridges between OIE-WAHIS and national/regional databases will be essential for the success of the new platform and ongoing financial support and commitment are required if this is to be achieved.

5. Conclusions

By embracing the new capabilities of the new OIE-WAHIS platform, reporting users should be able to improve transparency in reporting, including in terms of speed, improved quality of reporting and enhanced quantitative data.

The upcoming new version of WAHIS, OIE-WAHIS, will have several tools to better visualise the information provided and to enhance the use of this information for risk analysis, but this will only be possible if OIE Members continue to enter high quality data into the system.

Ultimately, the success of the new OIE-WAHIS platform depends on its users. The OIE encourages its Members to use the capabilities of the platform to their full potential to enhance decision-making. The collaborative efforts by Members in providing good quality and transparent data in a timely manner, combined with a variety of other data from partners, including public and private bodies, will underpin the OIE's data steward role in the Big Data era and enable us all to use this capability to develop the right animal health and veterinary public health policies to benefit the public good.

In addition, this will position OIE-WAHIS, currently the OIE's IT flagship project, as the reference data source for animal health information worldwide. User feedback will be essential to enable the platform to evolve in the future.

B. Animal health situation in the Africa Region

i. Update on animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2 reported to the OIE (data updated until 8 January 2021)

COVID-19, caused by infection with SARS-CoV-2, is a human disease which most likely emerged from an animal source and, through widespread human-to-human transmission, became a pandemic. The nature of this new zoonotic virus, together with its widespread distribution and the susceptibility of some animal species to infection, implies that close contact between people and animals may result in animal infections[2]. Conversely, there is also evidence that, for some animal species, close contact with infected animals can represent a potential source of infection in humans[3].

Based on reports to the OIE, the global distribution of animal infections with SARS-CoV-2 is shown in Table 1. As of 8 January 2021, 23 countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe had reported the occurrence of the disease, in eight different animal species (cats, dogs, mink, pet ferrets, lions, tigers, pumas and snow leopards).

REGION	Cats	Dogs	Mink	Pet ferrets	Lions	Tigers	Pumas	Snow leopards
Africa							*1*	
Americas	*30*	*28*	*19*		*1*	*2*		*1*
Asia	*9*	*13*						
Europe	*12*	*2*	*311*	*1*	*1*			
Total	**51**	**43**	**330**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**

Table 1. Number of outbreaks (n=431) reported worldwide, by species and region (as of 8 January 2021).

In the Africa Region, South Africa reported the occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 in a puma. In other Regions, the most recent concern has been related to SARS-CoV-2 detections in mink, in view of virus mutations in this species. It is important to note that Europe, which has reported 96% of the world's outbreaks in mink, also accounts for 63% of global mink production.

Further information on the global situation of SARS-CoV-2 in animals is available online on the OIE's COVID-19 Portal under "Events in Animals"[4]. The OIE has also worked in collaboration with its network of experts to develop several guidance documents to help its Members based on their current situation and needs[5].

---

[2] https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A_Sampling_Testing_and_Reporting_of_SARS-CoV-2_in_animals_3_July_2020.pdf

[3] https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.23.2001005#html_fulltext

[4] https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/events-in-animals/

[5] https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/

The worldwide geographical distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in animals reported to the OIE is shown in Figure 1. Note that this map with the global distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks is also publicly available on the OIE's Covid-19 Portal and is updated weekly with any new reports.

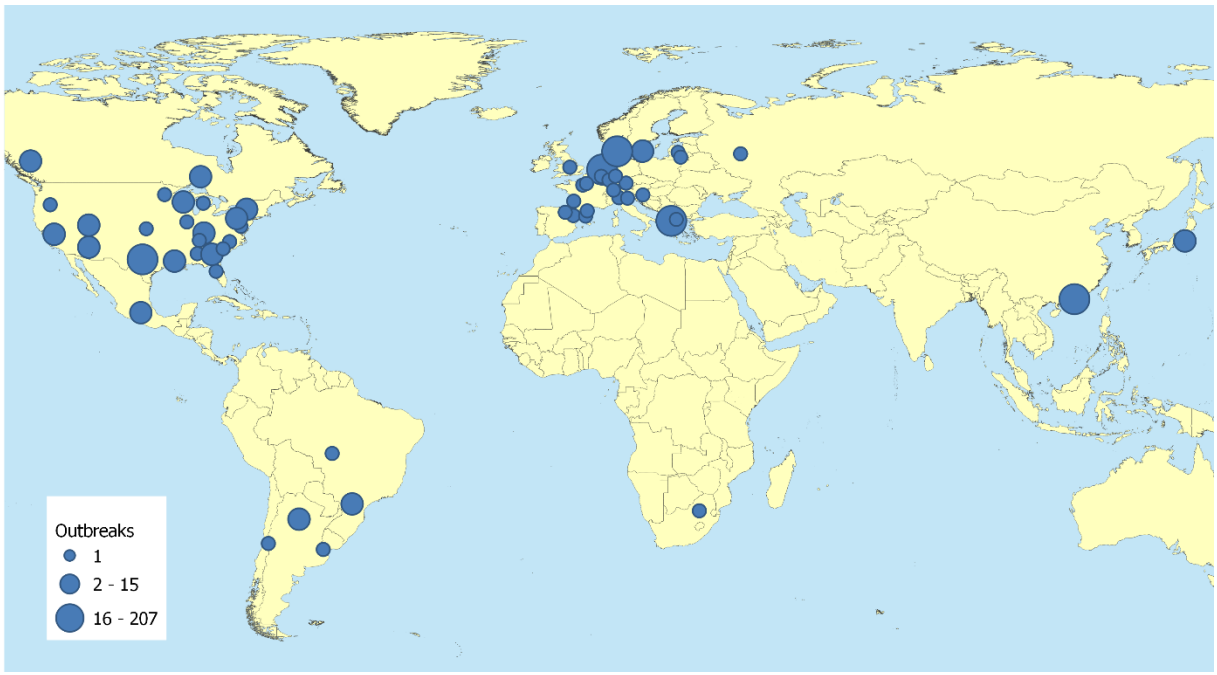

Figure 1. Worldwide distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in animals reported to the OIE (as of 8 January 2021)

- Animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2 are still only occasional occurrences, although some countries have experienced a high prevalence of outbreaks in mink farms. The main driver of community and international spread in the current pandemic is human-to human-transmission.
- Members are encouraged to report through WAHIS any occurrence of animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2 that comply with the case definition provided in the OIE guidelines.
- In addition to the guidance provided in Chapter 1.1. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the OIE has been working with its network of experts to develop guidance documents to help its Members based on their current conditions. These documents are available on the OIE's COVID-19 Portal.

ii. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (data updated until 4 January 2021)

Infection with foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus is one of the priority diseases identified in the Priority Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) 2021 – 2025 Regional Strategy[6]. FMD is endemic in Africa. It is one of the most contagious livestock diseases and has a significant economic impact. The Global FMD Control Strategy, endorsed in 2012, was jointly developed by the OIE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). The Progressive Control Pathway for FMD (PCP-FMD) is the guiding tool for the control of the disease at national level. Currently, around 80 countries in the world, including 49 countries in Africa, are implementing the PCP-FMD to reduce or eliminate FMD virus circulation by 2027.

[6] at https://rr-africa.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads-for-africa/foot-and-mouth-disease/

The regional distribution of FMD, based on the information collected through WAHIS during the period from 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021, is shown in Figure 2. During this period, 47 countries and territories provided information on FMD, which was reported as present by 72% (34[7]/47) of them.

During this period, FMD was reported by means of immediate notifications by 12 countries, as described in the following paragraph.

In March 2019, Uganda reported serotype A as a new strain in the country (previously circulating serotypes being O and SAT1). The outbreak was reported in Nakaseke administrative division, in a group of cattle. The affected farms were described as a cluster, in close contact during grazing and watering at River Kafu, which separates the three districts of Nakaseke, Masindi and Nakasongola. In April 2019, the event was closed as the situation was considered to be sufficiently stable. In April 2019, Comoros reported the first occurrence of FMD in the country. Serotype O was reported in Mwali administrative division and the event was stated to be due to the introduction of infected animals. No follow-up reports were provided, and the event was still ongoing as of 4 January 2021. Before the submission of this report, Comoros had always indicated in its animal health reports since 2012 that no information on the disease was available. The other 10 countries[8] submitted immediate notifications for the recurrence of the disease in one or more zones.

According to Resolution No. 7 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in June 2020, four countries and territories in the Region are officially recognised as FMD free: Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Reunion (France). Botswana has four officially recognised FMD free zones and Namibia has one officially recognised FMD free zone.

[7] Algeria, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep. of), Côte D'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

[8] Botswana, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

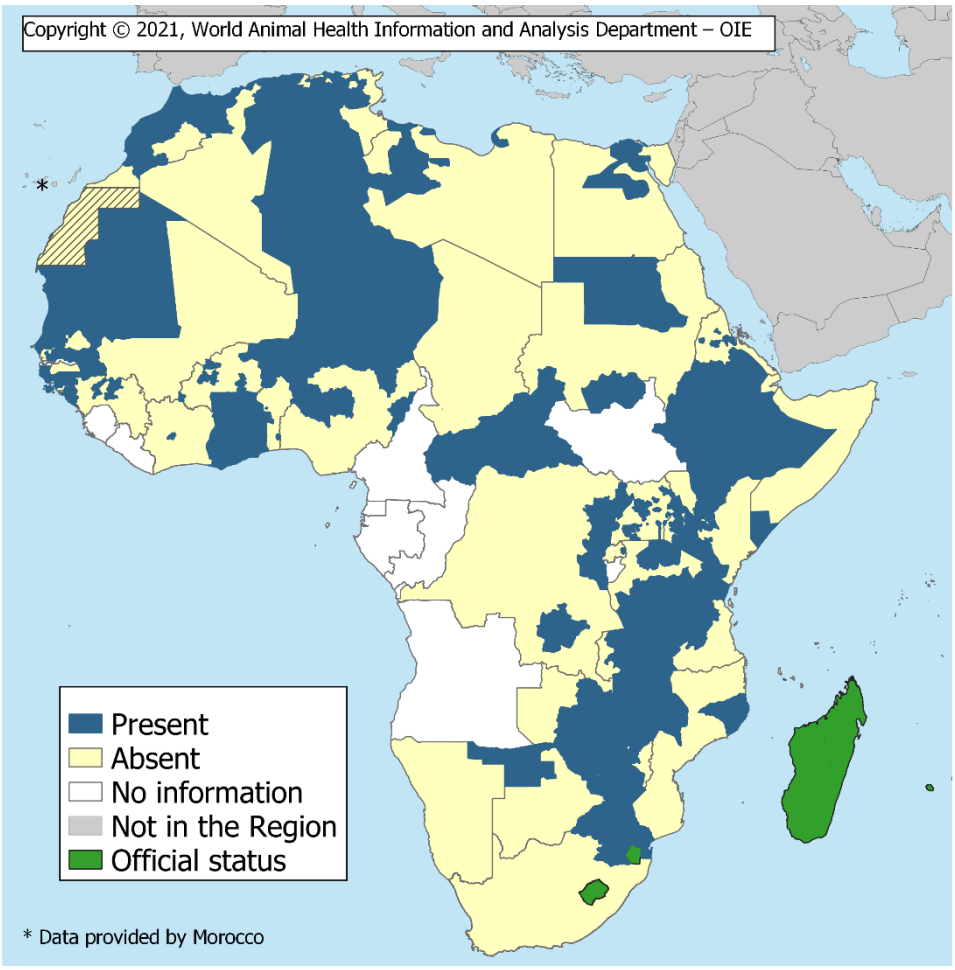

Figure2. Distribution of infection with foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the Africa Region, as reported during the period 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021. Countries with an officially recognised FMD status are shown in green.

- The distribution of the disease in 2019/2020 continues to show a large circulation of the virus in countries and territories in the Region, with most of the affected countries (21/34) reporting information on the disease through six-monthly reports (meaning that the disease is considered stable [i.e. endemic] in the country).
- Points of interest were the reporting of a new strain by Uganda and the reporting of the first occurrence of FMD by Comoros, the latter after a long period of reporting that no information was available. These reports demonstrate an increased capacity of the countries concerned in terms of surveillance and diagnostic capacities.
- The OIE encourages countries and territories of the Region to share timely and accurate information on FMD distribution through WAHIS, in order to improve national and regional control programmes and preparedness.

iii. *Infection with African swine fever virus (data updated until 4 January 2021)*

Infection with African swine fever (ASF) virus is also identified as a priority disease in the Priority Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) 2021 – 2025 Regional Strategy. Even though ASF has historically

been considered endemic in the Region, the reporting of ASF in Africa through immediate notifications has significantly increased in recent years[9].

The regional distribution of ASF, based on the information collected through WAHIS during the period from 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021, is shown in Figure 3. During this period, 44 countries and territories provided information on ASF, which was reported as present by 52% (23[10]/44) of them.

During this period, ASF was reported by means of immediate notifications by eight countries, as described in the following paragraph.

In February 2020, Sierra Leone submitted an immediate notification reporting the first occurrence of the disease in the country, in a designated zone. Eleven outbreaks were reported in domestic swine in Western Rural administrative division. The country reported that an investigation was carried out in 12 communities in the Western Area Rural and Urban districts. Estimated herd mortality was up to 99.4% in affected communities. No follow-up reports have been submitted since then and, as of 4 January 2021, the event was still ongoing. In June 2020, Nigeria submitted an immediate notification, citing "Unexpected change in the distribution or increase in morbidity or mortality of a listed disease" as the reason for the notification. ASF is usually reported in Nigeria through six-monthly reports but in June a sudden increase in pig mortality was detected. Several follow-up reports were submitted and, as of 4 January 2021, the event was still ongoing. The other six countries[11] submitted immediate notifications for the recurrence of the disease.

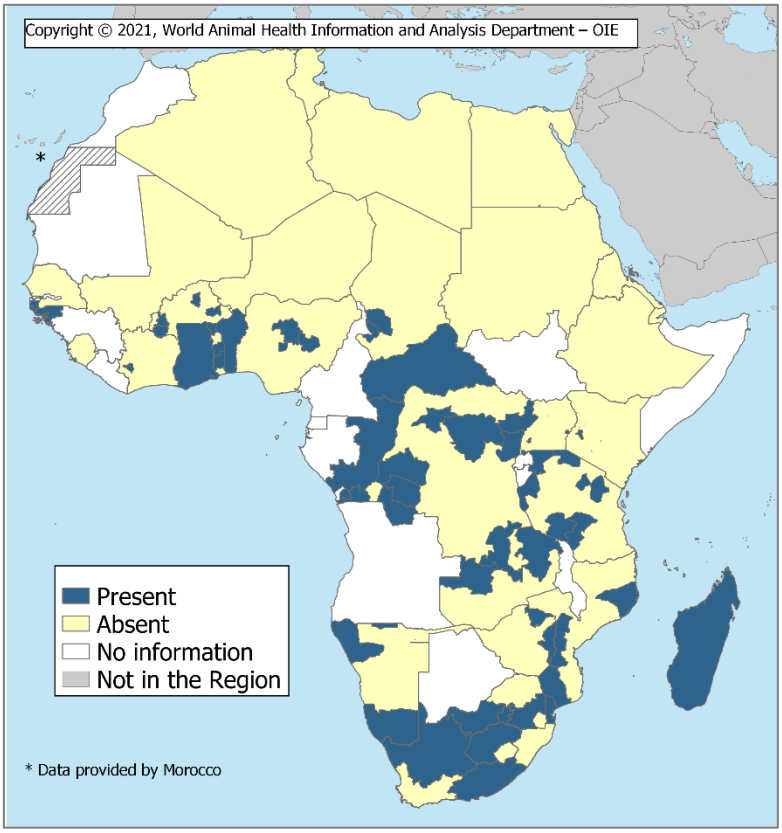

Figure3. Distribution of infection with African swine fever in the Africa Region, as reported during the period 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021.

[9] https://rr-africa.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads-for-africa/african-swine-fever/

[10] Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Dem. Rep of the), Congo (Rep. of the), Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

[11] Côte D'Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- This section has described the ASF situation in Africa in 2019 and 2020, highlighting a quite stable situation (in terms of the number of countries reporting the disease as present) for a disease that is considered largely endemic in sub-Saharan Africa, where the largest part of pig population is concentrated (estimated 35.6 million animals [FAOSTAT 2013 figures[12]]). It is important, however, to highlight the increase in the number of immediate notifications received in recent years, showing a dynamic epidemiological situation of the disease at country level.

- The notification submitted by Nigeria highlights the importance of countries and territories notifying the OIE by means of an immediate notification of the occurrence of diseases that are normally considered present in the country, if they detect a change in the "usual" epidemiological situation of the disease in terms of an increase of morbidity, mortality or spatial distribution. Article 1.1.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* states that countries should notify the OIE of "a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by, the pathogenic agent of a listed disease, infection or infestation present within a country, a zone or a compartment".

- Additional information on the disease and its epidemiological situation and geographical distribution is available on the OIE website[13], through the latest reports on ASF in the world and through the reports on ASF in Asia, which are updated on a regular basis and are based on WAHIS data.

iv. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (data updated until 4 January 2021)

Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV) is one of the priority diseases indicated in the FAO/OIE GF-TADs. The Global Strategy for the eradication of PPR by 2030 was adopted in March 2015. The PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) in Africa was launched by FAO and the OIE in October 2016, in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). PPR has been reported present for many years in all of Africa except for some parts of southern Africa.

The regional distribution of PPR, based on the information collected through WAHIS during the period from 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021, is shown in Figure 4. During this period, 42 countries and territories provided information on PPR, which was reported as present by 69% (29[14]/42) of them.

During this period, PPR was reported by means of immediate notifications by two countries. In 2019, Libya reported a recurrence of PPR. The disease occurred in the area of Banghazi (north-east of the country), with one outbreak in a sheep and goat farm which lasted from January to May 2019. In 2020, the country reported a recurrence of PPR, this time in the area of Az Zawiyah (north-west of the country). The event, consisting of seven outbreaks in sheep and goat farms, started in September and was continuing as of 4 January 2021. The source of the event was reported to be the introduction of new live animals. In 2020, Morocco reported a recurrence of PPR in the country, after a period of absence of more than four years. The event, consisting of three outbreaks, lasted from January to May 2020. A national vaccination campaign against PPR and sheep pox was carried out during this period and more than 22.5 million sheep and goats were vaccinated against PPR.

[12] http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data

[13] https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/animal-diseases/african-swine-fever/

[14] Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Congo (Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda

According to Resolution No. 13 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE in May 2020, eight countries and territories in the Region are officially recognised as PPR free: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion (France), Saint Helena (United Kingdom) and South Africa; Namibia has an officially recognised PPR free zone, located south of the country's Veterinary Cordon Fence.

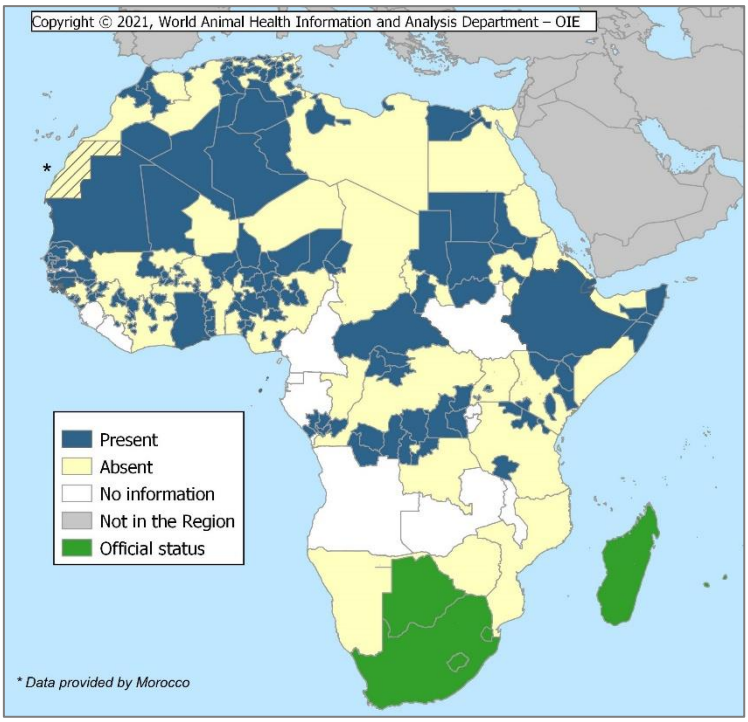

Figure 4. Distribution of infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in the Africa Region, as reported during the period 1 January 2019 to 4 January 2021. Countries with an officially recognised PPR status are shown in green.

- This section has briefly described the PPR situation observed in Africa in 2019 and 2020. The situation in the Region has remained stable (69% of the reporting countries and territories having been affected, as indicated in the present report, compared to 63% as indicated in the report presented at the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in 2019). The information presented in this section emphasises that PPR continues to be a concern for animal health in Africa.

- The OIE recommends that Members continue to implement the Global Strategy for the Eradication of PPR to achieve eradication of the disease by 2030. In particular, the OIE recommends its Members to improve collaboration and communication for early detection and rapid reporting to the OIE. Furthermore, those countries that are in an advanced stage of PPR control are encouraged to seek official recognition of their control programmes or their status as free from PPR in a zone or the whole country.