



# The OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs)

*Subregional Workforce Development  
Workshop  
Arusha, Tanzania  
November 17, 2022*



# VLSP

## The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme





# VLSP

- **2006-2007:** early PVS Evaluations revealed a lack of capacity in drafting and enforcing legislation (CCs IV-1 and IV-2)
- **2007-2008:** VLSP pilot missions
- **2008:** OIE *Guidelines on veterinary legislation*
- **2012:** *Guidelines* become OIE standards as:

the **Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary Legislation”**  
of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*



- **2018-2020:** development of 2 specific focuses:
  - **biothreat reduction**
  - **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

Development and piloting of a *Tripartite* (FAO-OIE-WHO)  
***One Health AMR Legal Assessment Tool***



Includes adequate regulation of the use of antimicrobials (AMs) by VPPs:

- ✓ acts of veterinary medicine that VPPs may perform or not (i.e. **prescription and administration** to animals of AMs) or only under the supervision of a vet
- ✓ appropriate **qualifications, training, continuing education**



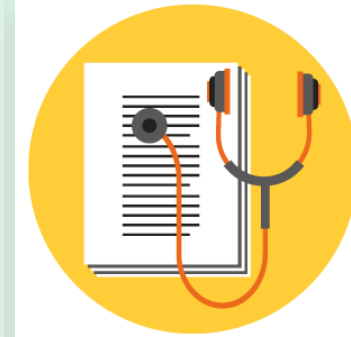
# VLSP

## 2 STAGES:

### 1. Identification mission = “diagnostic”

Analysis based on the Chapter 3.4. “Veterinary Legislation” (*OIE terrestrial Code*), with **recommendations to modernise** the country’s veterinary legislation.

1 week



### 2. Agreement = “treatment”

Support to **modernise legislation** according to the country’s priority needs and strategic objectives.



6-month Preparatory Phase,  
1-year Agreement (renewable)



# VLSP

Also an opportunity for **awareness raising and skills transfer** on:

- importance of **quality legislation** for effective operation of the VS
- **legal drafting** that result in quality legislation
- key **collaboration** between technical (vet) and legal drafters





# VLSP

## 2 TOOLS:

### 1. **VLSP Questionnaire** for Identification missions

- Part I focuses on the national legal framework.
- Part II **follows the structure of Chapter 3.4.** (OIE *Terrestrial Code*) to identify gaps in the legislation, incl. for VPPs.

See PART 2 of the presentation

### 2. **VLSP Manual for Experts** (Vol. 3: *Examples of legislation*) for Agreement

See PART 3 of the presentation



## Chapter 3.4.

### General matters

- Introduction & objectives
- Definitions
- General principles
- The drafting of veterinary legislation

### Article 3.4.6.

### Specific matters

- Competent authorities
- Veterinarians & veterinary para-professionals
- Laboratories in the veterinary domain
- Health provisions relating to animal production
- Animal diseases
- Animal welfare
- Veterinary medicines & biologicals (VMPs)
- Human food production chain
- Import & export procedures & veterinary certification





## Chapter 3.4.

### Article 3.4.6.

### Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals

Legislation should, for various categories of VPPs, **IDENTIFY**:

- **prerogatives**
- **minimum initial/continuous educational requirements and competencies**
- **conditions for recognition of the qualifications**
- **conditions to perform** activities of vet medicine/science
- **situations under which persons other than vets** can undertake activities that are normally carried out by vets



## Chapter 3.4.

### Article 3.4.6.

### Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals

Legislation should provide a basis for **REGULATION** of VPPs:

- general system of **control**
- various categories of VPPs recognized and for each: **training, qualifications, tasks, extent of supervision**
- **POWERS** to deal with conduct and competence issues,  
...incl. licensing requirements
- possibility of **DELEGATION OF POWERS** to a professional organisation (such as a VSB)  
...incl. prerogatives, functioning and responsibilities of the mandated professional organisation

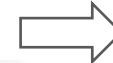


# Summary

1- Identification mission  
("diagnostic")



*Questionnaire*



RECOMMENDATIONS  
to modernize legislation

VPPs = Part II (section 2)

2- Agreement  
("treatment")



*VLSP Manual for Experts*  
(Vol. 3: *Examples of legislation*)



SUPPORT to  
modernize legislation

VPPs = Part 1

VLSP methodology based on:

**Chapter 3.4. "Veterinary Legislation"** (OIE *Terrestrial Code*)

Article 3.4.6.

**Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals**

**NEW VERSION** for adoption in 2021

The *Questionnaire* and the *VLSP Manual* will be modified  
to reflect the changes.



# Interested to know more about the WOAHL VLSP?



### Background

The overarching objective of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is 'to improve animal health and welfare worldwide regardless of the cultural practices or the economic situations in Member Countries'. In support of achieving that objective, the OIE has created a set of tools and programmes to assist its Member Countries in the strengthening of their Veterinary Services (VS). Taken together, this set of tools and programmes is known as the OIE PVS Pathway, where PVS refers to 'Performance of Veterinary Services'. By availing themselves of the various components of the PVS Pathway, Member Countries can better implement the international standards of the OIE which they have adopted.

The Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), established in 2008 to help Member Countries recognise and address their needs for modern, comprehensive veterinary legislation, is one component of the PVS Pathway. Indeed, in many countries, veterinary legislation is outdated and not adequate to meet current and future challenges such as the growing global demand for foods of animal origin, increased participation in world trade, shifting patterns of disease associated with climate change, emergence and re-emergence of diseases that can rapidly spread across international borders and increased risks of bioterrorism.

Veterinary legislation is an essential element of a nation's infrastructure. It provides the powers and authorities necessary for VS to efficiently carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain<sup>1</sup> to ensure public safety and promote the public good. These functions include epidemic-surveillance; early detection and reporting of animal and zoonotic diseases; rapid response to and prevention and control of animal disease and food safety emergencies; animal product food safety; the welfare of animals; and the relevant certification of animals and animal products for export.

<sup>1</sup> The OIE defines the **veterinary domain** as 'all the activities that are directly or indirectly related to animals, their products and by-products, which help to protect, maintain and improve the health and welfare of humans, including by means of the protection of animal health and welfare, and food safety'

### Objectives of the VLSP

The VLSP consists of two stages. The initial stage is the Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission, aimed at obtaining a detailed picture of the current state of veterinary legislation in a country. If the experts of this mission find that the country has sufficient political will and the human and financial resources to successfully undertake it, the second stage is the Veterinary Legislation Agreement aimed at supporting the country in correcting its deficiencies in veterinary legislation. Their respective objectives are as follows:

#### The VETERINARY LEGISLATION IDENTIFICATION MISSION objectives are to:

- raise awareness of the essential elements of legal drafting that result in quality veterinary legislation and of the importance of quality veterinary legislation for effective operation of the VS;
- assess compliance of the Member Country's veterinary legislation with Chapter 3.4. on veterinary legislation of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code);
- ascertain the Member Country's available human, financial and organisational resources to produce high quality veterinary legislation;
- identify or support the preparation of national priorities in terms of veterinary legislation;
- develop recommendations to modernise the Member Country's veterinary legislation.

#### VETERINARY LEGISLATION AGREEMENT objectives are to:

- establish specific objectives for legislation reform/modernisation according to the Member Country's priority needs and strategic objectives;
- raise awareness, strengthen relevant skills and promote collaboration between technical and legal drafters, with the emphasis on strengthening the Member Country's capability to prepare and implement veterinary legislation of acceptable quality; and
- support the development of specific new laws and regulations according to the Member Country's priority needs and strategic objectives.

### Structure of the VLSP

#### STAGE 1: The Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission

Participation in the VLSP is voluntary. Any OIE Member Country that has completed a PVS Evaluation mission can request a Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission. Following a request from the Delegate, the OIE proposes dates for a 5 day in-country mission and a team of VLSP experts (at least one veterinarian and one lawyer). Once agreed, the mission Team Leader contacts the Delegate to begin a stage of pre-mission information gathering to obtain basic information on the legislative procedures in the country and the current status of the country's existing veterinary legislation. To that end, the Delegate and his colleagues are asked to complete and return a two-part Questionnaire, and provide the country's Constitution as well as full texts of key veterinary legislation to the mission team.

During the mission, the OIE team meets the Delegate, his technical staff and legal advisors, and representatives of relevant competent authorities throughout the veterinary domain, which may be outside the Veterinary Authority. As legislation is a matter for political decisions, it is expected that the Minister responsible for VS will attend the mission's closing meeting, when the OIE team's draft recommendations are presented and discussed.

After the mission, the OIE team prepares a preliminary mission report which is submitted to the Delegate for review and comment and then finalized and resubmitted to the Delegate for approval following consideration of those inputs. The report, in addition to an analysis of existing legislation and recommendations for legislation reform, includes an assessment of the country's capacity to undertake future work on legislation, which would be a factor in whether the OIE engages the country in a Veterinary Legislation Agreement.



OIE VLSP Identification Mission in Myanmar, March 2018

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[VLSP Identification mission reports](#)

(when publicly available)



# Thank you

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