



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

WOAH/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) Global Technical Meeting

FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)
Malaysia room (B-227)
2–4 July 2024

Concept note and agenda



Concept note

Introduction

The OFFLU (WOAH/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza) is a global network of expertise aimed at sharing scientific evidence to support the prevention and control of animal influenza worldwide. It brings together experts from various disciplines, including the human/animal interface, applied epidemiology, and socioeconomics technical activities as well as the avian, wildlife, equine and swine influenza groups.

Although both parent organizations have hosted numerous meetings related to the unprecedented increase in avian influenza, the last OFFLU meeting that brought together all groups was held in April 2018 in Brighton, the UK.

The network plays a crucial role in enhancing global preparedness and response to influenza outbreaks and convening its experts will strengthen ties that are crucial to addressing the challenges ahead.

Purpose of the meeting

The upcoming meeting of all OFFLU groups of experts at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 2 to 4 July 2024, serves several important purposes:

- Review and update the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the technical activities: ascertain whether there is a need to change the modus operandi. The meeting will provide a platform for experts to review and update the way in which the groups work, independently and together. The focus will be on how OFFLU can provide maximum added value and what resources will be needed to achieve this. (Some work can be done online in the run-up to the meeting)
- Strengthening collaborations: the meeting will foster collaboration and networking among OFFLU members across the various activities. There will be focus on identifying synergies and overlaps in order to optimize the support OFFLU can give stakeholders involved in influenza management at the global, regional, and national levels. Collaborative efforts are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of influenza preparedness and response measures, it is anticipated that communication will be an important component of these discussions. We will feature a specific session on network mapping to see where OFFLU can expand its reach and effectiveness by establishing new connections with existing networks.
- Strategic planning: experts will engage in strategic discussions to identify emerging challenges and priorities in influenza management and develop strategic plans to address them effectively. This will include discussions on how to translate key recommendations from FAO and WOA into action and identifying opportunities for innovation. A special joint session with WHO has been added to discuss the evolving risk of the currently circulating viruses to human health.

Proposed participants

- OFFLU steering and executive committee members.
- OFFLU technical activity chairs and active members.
- Representatives from the parent organizations WOA and FAO Representatives from other international organizations such as WHO and EFSA.

Expected outcomes

- Official approval of updated ToRs and modus operandi.
- Input to the OFFLU communication plan received.
- Potential contributions from OFFLU to the implementation of FAO and WOAHA recommendations (including the Global Strategy, recommendations from the 2023 Global consultation and outputs of WOAHA general assembly) and the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action identified.
- A plan of action and required resources drafted for each Technical Activity.
- Adoption of the WHO risk assessment document.
- Generation of a live document that maps global influenza networks.
- Strengthened collaborations and partnerships among OFFLU members.

Conclusion

The meeting of all OFFLU groups of experts at FAO headquarters in Rome presents a valuable opportunity to advance global efforts in influenza control. By bringing together leading experts, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration, the meeting will contribute to strengthening global preparedness and response, ultimately contributing to safeguarding animal health, public health, and food security worldwide.

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Agenda

DAY 1: Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Facilitator
9:00-9:10	Welcome remarks FAO NSA Director	Thanawat Tiensin	Lidewij Wiersma
9:10-9:15	Opening remarks FAO	Madhur Dhingra	
9:15-9:20	Opening remarks WOAHA	Gregorio Torres	
9:20-9:25	Opening remarks OFFLU	Ian Brown	
9:25-10:00	Introduction of experts, max. 2min each	All	
10:00-10:45	Run through of the agenda Feedback from pre-meeting survey Review of OFFLU activities (inc. AIM and VCM) Discussion of what worked well, what can be improved and what is needed for improvement Does OFFLU need a new mandate?	Gounalan Pavade Lidewij Wiersma Ash Banyard Francesco Bonfante	
10:45-11:15	Coffee break (group photo in the foyer)		
11:15-13:00	Breakouts per technical activity (avian, wildlife, swine, equine, VCM, AIM, applied epidemiology, socio-economics)	TA chairs and TA support	TA Chair
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-14:30	Breakouts wrap-up	TA chairs and TA support	TA Chair
14:30-15:30	Plenary reporting back and discussion of synergies	All	David Swayne
15:30-16:00	Coffee break		
16:00-16:55	Network mapping – what networks exist, what roles, synergies and overlaps	All	Nick Lyons
16:55-17:00	Closure and housekeeping comments		
17:00-19:00	Drinks with a view on the 8th floor		

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DAY 2: Wednesday, 3 July 2024

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Facilitator
9:00-9:30	Overview of existing recommendations and documents	David Swayne	Akiko Kamata
9:30-10:30	Which global recommendations can your OFFLU TA help address and how, what resources are needed, can you provide, what do you need	TA chairs and TA support	TA chairs
10:30-11:00	Coffee break		
11:00-13:00	TA speed dating: ca 20mins per date, look at which recommendations groups have in common	All	OFFLU Team
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:30	Current situation/Risk assessment update	All	Ian Brown
15:30-16:00	Coffee break		
16:00-17:00	Current situation/Risk assessment update	All	Ian Brown
17:00-17:15	Closing remarks and housekeeping remarks		

DAY 3: Thursday, 4 July 2024

Time	Session	Speaker	Facilitator
9:00-10:30	OFFLU communication	OFFLU team (WOAH, FAO)	Gounalan Pavade
10:30-11:00	Coffee break		
11:00-12:30	Unaddressed or insufficiently addressed issues and the way forward (e.g. OFFLU links with private sector)	OFFLU team, All	Lidewij Wiersma
12:30-13:00	Summary of main points and closing thoughts WOA, OFFLU and FAO	Gregorio Torres Ian Brown Baba Soumare	

