

**Fifth meeting of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee,
OIE Headquarters, France, October 16-17 2012
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Global Steering Committee compliments the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees and the GF-TADs Global Secretariat with the development of the 5-year Action Plans

The Global Steering Committee recommends that:

On the 5-year Action Plans:

1. In the Global and Regional 5-year Action Plans, a paragraph be included recognizing that the disease outbreaks in animals may be related to national security, public health, food security and economic security and that ensuring an effective and well-equipped veterinary network is the most effective measure to prevent and to contain biological threats by ensuring early detection and rapid response at national level (facilitated by the use of international standards and guidelines and global conference recommendations); this will in turn safeguard the regional and global levels;
2. The 5-year Regional Action Plans for Europe, the Middle-East and the Americas be endorsed;
3. The 5-year Regional Action Plans for Asia and Africa to be refined and finalized by further consultations in the region within 3 months; where appropriate, the GF-TADs Global Secretariat be called upon for mediation; final version being endorsed by FAO and OIE headquarters;
4. The members of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee provide their comments on the Global 5-year Action Plan within 4 weeks; the Presidents of the Regional Steering Committees organize appropriate regional consultations with their Steering Committee members;
5. The Global 5-year GF-TADs Action Plan be updated on the basis of the comments received and the new version be sent to the members of the Global Steering Committee and FAO and OIE Headquarters for final endorsement. The 5-year Global and Regional Action Plans be living documents that should be reviewed on a regular basis and endorsed by relevant GF-TADs Steering Committees;
6. Criteria and guidelines for considering a TAD as a priority disease be drafted by the Global Secretariat, for use at global and regional levels; criteria to be included in the next version of the 5-year Global and Regional Action Plans and endorsed by relevant GF-TADs Steering Committees; regions be encouraged to include specific priority diseases in a regional list;
7. The Global Secretariat develop a short document highlighting the cost-effectiveness of investments in prevention of TADs through good governance of veterinary services as opposed to attempts to contain and eliminate the disease once it is present; this document be written for a lay public and useful as a hand out or reminder.

On GF-TADs global strategies development, implementation, advocacy and funding

8. The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees and Regional Technical Organisations convince countries and Regional Economic Communities that the FAO/OIE Global FMD Strategy and other TAD Control Strategies:
 - (i) be considered as a Global Public Good and a key priority,
 - (ii) to apply the strategy and develop policies respecting international standards and guidelines and the recommendations from Global Conferences and key regional seminars, and
 - (iii) to look for synergies and raised cost-effectiveness by integrating and harmonizing the different animal disease control policies and activities at the regional levels;
9. Animal Health be further emphasized as having a clear link with food security, biological threat reduction, human health and food safety and therefore appealing to funding partners that are supporting such investments;
10. Donor resources be allocated not only for strengthening national veterinary services and activities at country level, but also for the necessary accompanying activities at regional and global levels to implement the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy and other TADs Control Strategies and to support and ensure the sustainability of relevant global GF-TADs' companion tools (GLEWS, OFFLU, FAO-OIE CMC-AH);
11. OIE and FAO use flexible and efficient funding mechanisms existing in their organisations to attract donors on the financial needs for the sustainability of relevant global GF-TADs' companion tools and the implementation of the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy and other TADs Control Strategies as well as support to good governance and prevention of biological threats. A new mechanism of coordinated resource mobilization and management of certain programmes by OIE and FAO be defined, using when possible existing mechanisms;
12. Regional and sub-regional meetings be organized in order to define priorities in transboundary animal disease control, get political support from countries and regional organizations and design or prepare programmes to be presented to donors;
13. FAO use the opportunity of the FAO decentralization process to further strengthen animal health expertise and capacities at the country and regional levels through regional and national FAO offices, but also use this process to foster the implementation of GF-TADs related activities;
14. The implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway and reinforcement of Veterinary Services be a systematic and fundamental component of any TAD control strategy;
15. Taking into account the experience gained with the Global GF-TADs Working Group on FMD, the prerogatives and activities of the FMD WG be extended to PPR (same framework and procedures);
16. OIE continue to work on a specific PPR pathway for official recognition of status and endorsement of national control programmes as an incentive for countries to step up their activities in the field of PPR control and in the future to engage in a Global PPR Control Strategy;
17. The Global GF-TADs Working Group relevant for PPR take into account existing regional strategies and ongoing programmes to prepare a Global PPR Control Strategy;

18. OIE and FAO intensify and align their activities on Rabies and RVF; Rabies and RVF be considered as flagship diseases for cooperation between FAO, OIE and WHO in the One Health Context;

19. With the support of OIE, particularly through the Wildlife Working Group, and FAO, further studies on wildlife susceptibility to TADs, as well as on their epidemiological role, be encouraged to better underpin conservation efforts and where and how to focus prevention and control efforts, improve outcomes, and engage additional stakeholders locally and globally.

On Reference Centers

20. The FAO-OIE Task Force on Reference Centres (i) continue to follow up on means to achieve greater convergence between FAO and OIE Reference Centres, with focus on the Centers designated to deal with specific animal diseases; (ii) invite relevant centers recognized by FAO to apply for OIE official recognition; (iii) continue to publicize the joint designation of Reference Centers through the OIE and FAO websites and other relevant media; (iv) explore ways to ensure good functioning of networks of Reference Centres under the auspices of the two organisations; and (v) invite WHO in the efforts to create synergies amongst respective Reference Centres/Collaborating Centres;

On Global GF-TADs supporting/companion tools

21. Global supporting/companions tools share their multi-annual action plans and working programmes with the Global and Regional GF-TADs Steering Committees as they are important pillars of GF-TADs, serving both the global and regional levels and in order to improve synergy between their Action Plans/working programmes and the GF-TADs 5 year Action Plans;

22. FAO and OIE consider an external evaluation of the GF-TADs global supporting/companion tools;

GLEWS

23. OIE, FAO and WHO welcome the strengthening of wildlife and inclusion of food safety components, to provide a greater relevance and scope to GLEWS;

24. In the context of the Tripartite framework, the composition of the GLEWS Stakeholder Advisory Committee be discussed and established; it should include wildlife and food safety experts as well as donors and other stakeholders;

25. OIE, FAO and WHO join forces to explore new and sustainable funding for the continuation of the GLEWS activities, using the GLEWS+ Concept Note for this purpose;

26. GLEWS be promoted in the context of the Global Partnership (biological threats), as a key tool for disease intelligence;

27. GLEWS analyses be processed, packaged and disseminated to relevant stakeholders..

FAO-OIE CMC-AH

28. SOPs for CMC-AH missions be formulated; in particular, the scope of intervention of the CMC-AH be further defined, based on a clear definition of prevention and response activities.

OFFLU

29. The composition of the OFFLU Working Groups be reviewed to include experts from Developing Countries, to improve the data collection from these countries; regions play also a greater role to convince countries to provide these data;

30. Information on influenza in wildlife be incorporated into OFFLU activities.

Rinderpest

31. OIE and FAO further combine efforts to convince countries to respond to the questionnaire on virus sequestration; the list of countries that have not responded yet be made available;

32. New provisions on countries' obligations with regards to the annual reporting of Rinderpest virus storage and handling be proposed for adoption at the World Assembly of OIE Delegates during the 81st General Session of the OIE in May 2013;

33. OIE and FAO consolidate the Joint FAO-OIE Concept Note on Rinderpest post eradication activities endorsed by JAC on the basis of the comments received from members of the Global Partnership (USA; UK; CAN) and prepare a joint answer to these comments;

34. The number of laboratories allowed to maintain store of live Rinderpest virus be reduced to the minimum necessary to ensure proper supervision by the international organizations; AU-PANVAC be one of them for Rinderpest vaccine storage.

35. The Sixth GF-TADs Global Steering Committee meeting (GSC6) be held Option A: October 29 and 30 2013 or Option B: November 5 and 6 2013 in Rome (to be confirmed).

Special Note:

N1: The Steering Committee recognizes FAO and OIE concerns and supports FAO and OIE raising the need of clarification from the EuFMD Executive Committee about the geographical and technical scope of EuFMD as defined in its mandate.

N2: OIE and FAO work together more closely in order to strengthen the coordination on AMR issues related to animal health.