GF-TADs
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

GF-TADs activity report for the 14th Global Steering Committee meeting

Reporting period: January 2023–December 2023

Contents

Foreword

This report presents:

- The main activities of initiatives to control five main global priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) since the meeting of the 13th Global Steering Committee (GSC13) in January 2023.
- A concise summary of the events carried out under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) since GSC13 meeting.
- Follow-up on the recommendations of the action plan determined since GSC13.
- The main activities, at the global level, of the Management Committee and the Global Secretariat.
- The main activities, at the regional level, of the regional steering committees (RSC) and the regional secretariats (RS).

Governance activities

Management Committee

The GF-TADs Management Committee is the decision-making body of the GF-TADs for all final decisions regarding the GF-TADs initiative at global and regional levels. The Management Committee validates and follows recommendations provided by the Global Steering Committee where possible and appropriate in the overall strategy and financial possibilities. The Management Committee validates the work plan of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat, supervises the work of the Global Secretariat as guided by the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and reports on progress to the Global Steering Committee. Under the guidance of the Management Committee, the Global Secretariat coordinates the global activities of the GF-TADs and connects to all the governance bodies when necessary to strengthen collaboration between global and regional levels.

Committee meetings are currently chaired by a co-chair from FAO (Dr Thanawat Tiensin, Director, Animal Production and Health Division (NSA) and Chief Veterinarian) and a co-chair from WOAH (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, DDG institutional affairs and regional activities). The Management Committee is composed of a WOAH delegation and an FAO delegation, both composed of three members (FAO: Dr Tiensin, Dr Dhingra, Dr Minjauw; WOAH: Dr Dop, Dr Arroyo, Dr Mapitse). The two co-chairs are also delegation leaders. The Global Secretariat prepares and moderates the Management Committee meetings.

Since the 13th Global Steering Committee meeting, six Management Committee (MC) meetings have taken place (MC45 to MC50), including two in person meetings. The regularity of these interactions contributes to strengthen the relationship between FAO and WOAH management and provide guidance to disease groups and global secretariats on selected topics. During these meetings the MC reviewed progress in the implementation and development of TADs specific strategies, Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP) workplan and certain governance issue such as resource mobilisation, development of shared workplan, development of the key performance indicators (KPIs) of the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025, and certain regional level activities, Figure 1 depicts the state of action items on various topics, decided by the MC in their six previous meetings). The follow up on the progress of implementation of the GF-TADs Strategy milestones as well as recommendations of the GSC13 meeting was performed by the MC. The MC and GSC members have permanently access to the dashboards of follow up of these recommendations, action items and milestones.

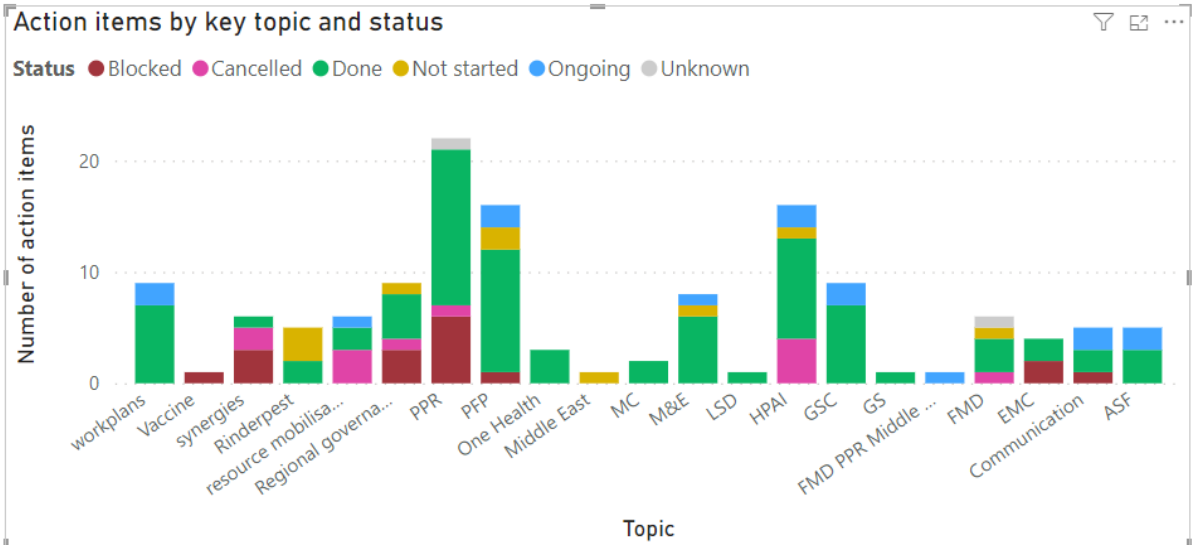

Figure 1: Status of action items decided by the MC on various topics

Global Secretariat

The GF-TADs Global Secretariat (GS, hosted at FAO HQs) works under the supervision of the Management Committee. All proposals by the Global Secretariat must be agreed upon by the Management Committee before being implemented. The Global Secretariat is currently composed of Bouda Vosough Ahmadi (global coordinator,

FAO), Alexandre Fediaevsky (regional coordinator, WOAH) and Karima Ouali (global and regional disease expert, FAO). Gian Mario Cosseddu and Yu Qiu (both disease control experts from FAO) supported the GS from January to November 2023. The regular interactions between the GS team members generate a strong cohesion, mutual understanding, and team spirit that increase the efficiency of the coordination role of the GS at HQs and regional offices. The GS meets weekly and coordinates the day-to-day activities of the GF-TADs. The GS also supervises the global GF-TADs website and GF-TADs publications with the effective support of the communication teams at both organizations.

Among the results of the coordination activities carried out by the GS team, the following outcomes could be mentioned:

- Development of the SharePoint site continued with the inclusion of three dashboards to enable monitoring progress of the milestones of the strategy, as well as progress of recommendations and action items from the meetings of the governing bodies (Figures 2). The tools are currently being modified so that a similar approach of listing and tracking implementation of recommendations could be feasible for the disease working groups/secretariats and at regional levels. The SharePoint site is accessible to all colleagues involved in GF-TADs activities across the two organizations.

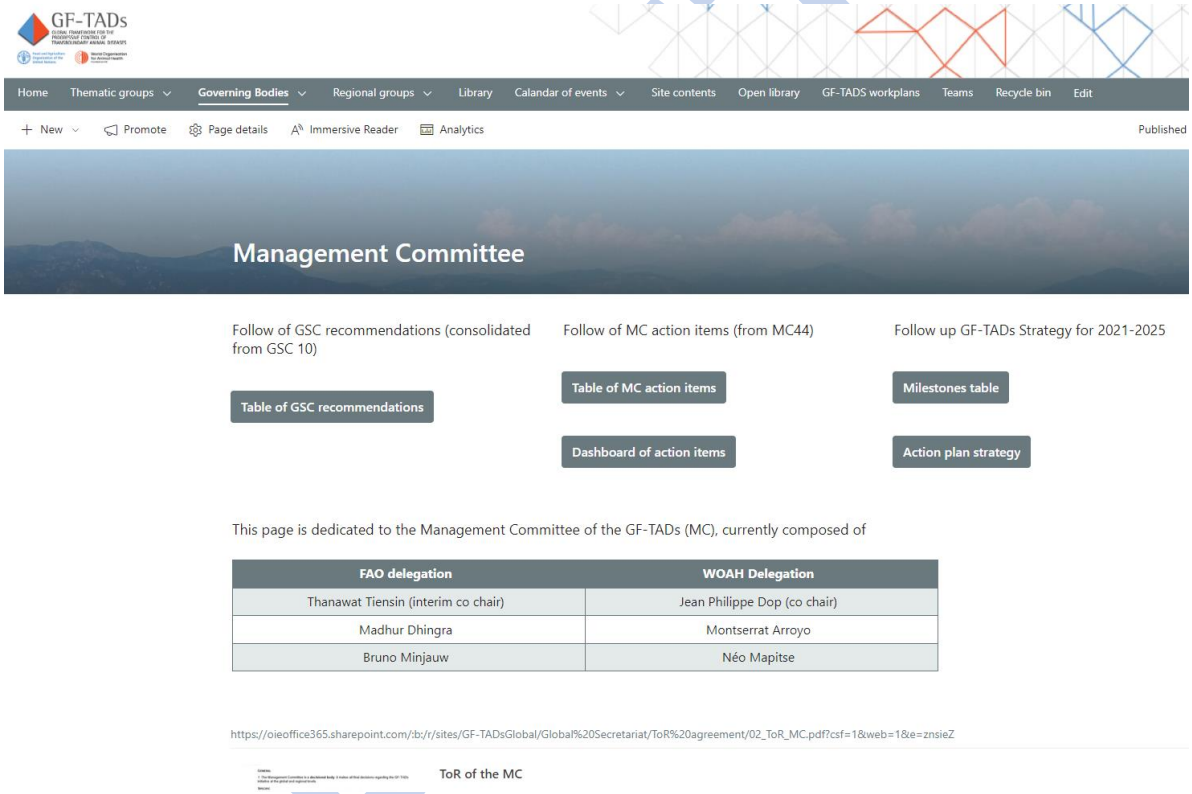

Figure 2: Screenshot from the GF-TADs SharePoint, the homepage for the Management Committee providing link to the dashboards to follow up recommendations, milestones, and action items, as well as library of MC meeting documents and ToRs of MC.

- A dashboard to host joint work plan and agenda was developed (Figures 3). This dashboard consists of the details of the planned activities to be conducted by the disease working groups/secretariats, as well as regions under the GF-TADs. The MC has encouraged colleagues at both organizations to also share on this dashboard, the organization-specific planned activities whenever possible.

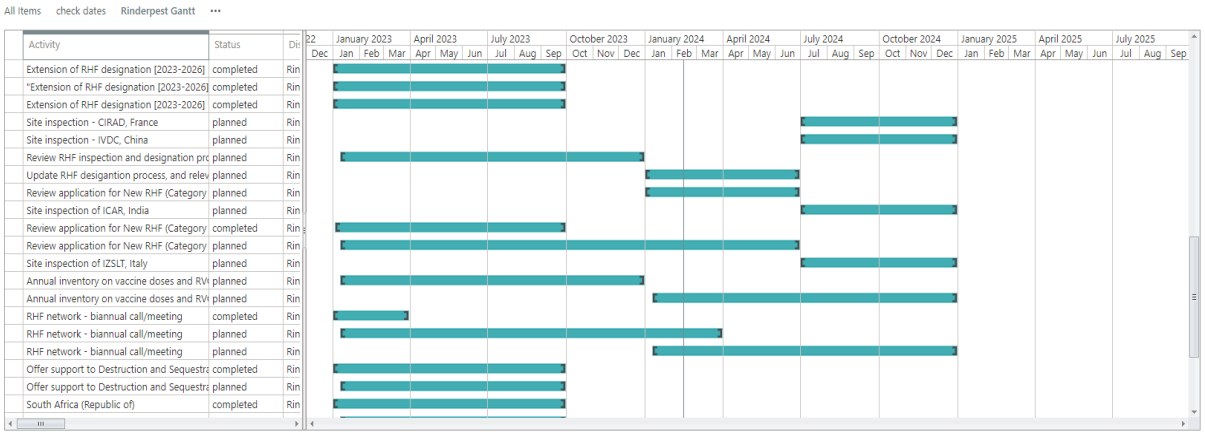

Figure 3: A Screenshot from the GF-TADs SharePoint, the joint workplan can be visualised as list, calandar and Gannt chart. The dashboard is being fine-tuned to improve user's experiences.

- An open repository for African swine fever (ASF) working group, to facilitate access to materials developed by FAO, WOAH or shared by other stakeholders at the occasion of GF-TADs activities (under development).
- Indicators and result framework for the M&E of the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-205 were tested and indicators were grouped under three categories: **(i) actionable indicators** (data collection on this is in progress), **(ii) revised indicators** for which data collection require new tools or process and **(iii) compromised indicators** for which important drawbacks in the data collection exist or interpretation process is blocked, such indicators will require alternative approaches (*see section KPIs of the GF-TADs Global Strategy for 2021-2025*).
- Support to the Diseases working groups, the regional steering groups, the partnership, and financing panel (PFP) and the management committee (MC).
- Ensuring the quality and format of the GF-TADs related publications (e.g. reports and social media articles) in coordination with the communication teams, preparing contents for the new GF-TADs website (in progress) and procedures for the faster publication of GF-TADs related documents.

Follow up of previous GSC recommendations

The follow-up on recommendations adopted during previous GSC recommendations is presented in Annex. The assessment of progress of the implementation of recommendations was done by the GS under the supervision of the MC. (Figure 4 illustrates the status of the progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the three previous GSC meetings, GSC11, 12 and 13.

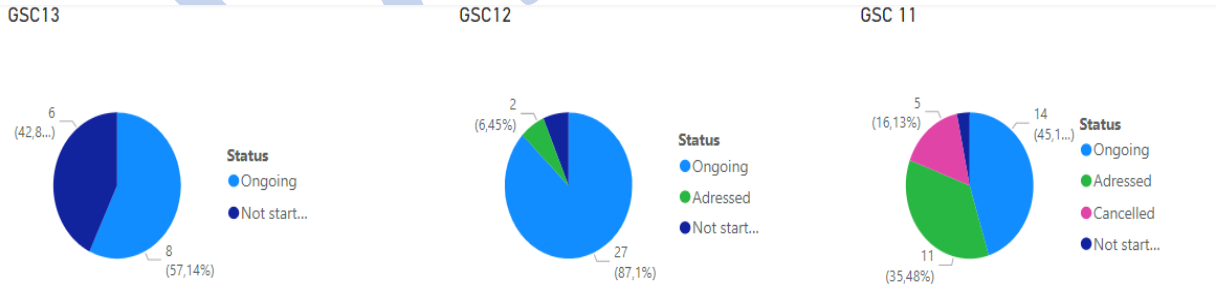

Figure 4 Overview of implementation of recommendations of GSC 11 to 13

This exercise was mainly qualitative, and results reflect that although implementation of recommendations is often a slow process that most recommendations were either implemented or in progress in the defined contexts. It should be noted that many recommendations address highly strategic issues that may require policy changes within FAO and/or WOAH or they depend on other partners and stakeholders, especially those related to resource mobilisation, engagement with private sector and coordination with One Health initiatives. Recommendations related to development of KPIs and sharing experience are considered as ongoing work due

to constraint of M&E specialists, and data availability to inform indicators. Recommendations related to synergies between disease working groups/secretariats, sharing or exchange of information on workplans and development of strategies either addressed/well progressed or are ongoing. A few recommendations were considered no longer relevant and classified as cancelled.

Regional governance activities

The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees (RSCs), under the leadership of their respective chairs, coordinate the main stakeholders of the five regions to support the global and regional priority TADs activities. RSCs are supported by GF-TADs Regional Secretariats (hosted at WOAH Regional Representation with support from FAO GF-TADs regional teams). The membership of RSC varies according to regions and can be found in Terms of Reference available on the GF-TADs website. Due to the specific epidemiological and political context some countries are present in more than one region as illustrated in Figure 5.

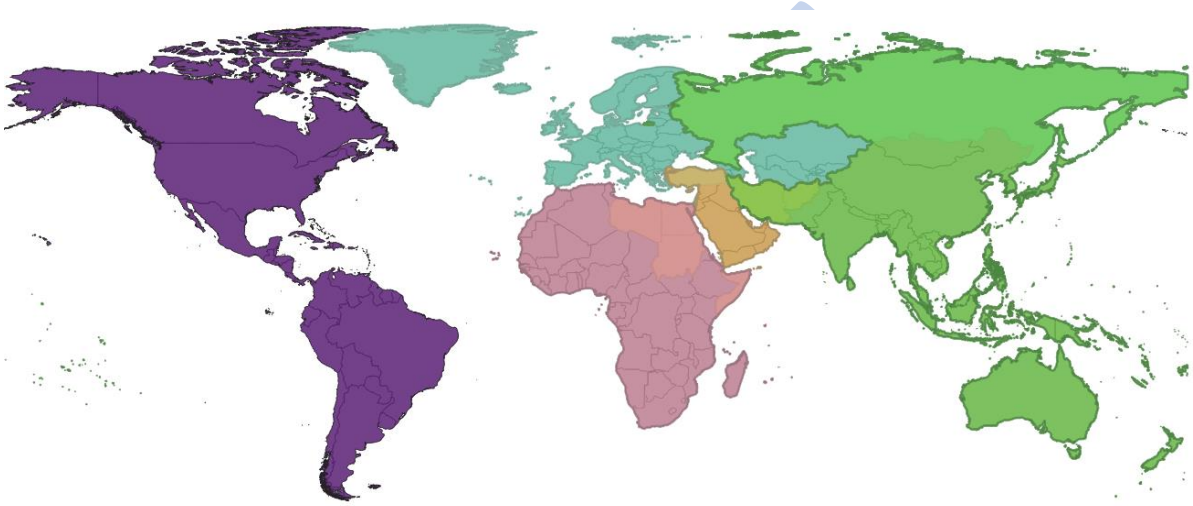

Figure 5: The five GF-TADs regions (Africa in pink, Americas in Purple, Asia and the Pacific in green, Europe in blue, Middle East in Yellow, countries included in more than one region appear in overlapping mixed colours: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iran, Egypt; Libya, Russian Federation, Somalia, Sudan, Türkiye).

In **Africa**, the 12th Regional Steering Committee meeting, RSC-12, that was planned to be held in 2023 did not take place, due to the failure to identify joint funding (estimated at EUR/USD 50,000 for a face-to-face meeting). However, two inter-agency coordination meetings between AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO-RAF and WOAH-RR/AF were held in 2023, although these were not exclusively planned under the GF-TADs for Africa. The first meeting held on 1 February 2023 (under then Ag. Director of IBAR, Dr Nwankpa) and the second meeting held on 11 December 2023 (under the newly appointed Director of IBAR, Dr Salih). The nomination of the new Director of AU-IBAR, Dr Huyam Salih was an opportunity to commend and strengthen the engagement of AU-IBAR as chair of the GF-TADs in Africa.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the 12th regional steering committee meeting held in February 2023, let to the adoption of a new regional strategy aligned with the GF-TADs global strategy, addressing more specifically priorities in the different subregions that consequently triggered dedicated coordination meetings for South Asia and the Pacific.

In the **Middle East,** the 10th regional steering committee meeting held on the margin of the WOAH 90th GS. This was the occasion where the Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, was nominated as the new chairperson and it was decided that revision of the regional priorities would be conducted in 2024.

In **Europe**, recognising the need for enhanced coordination in a challenging period, the WOAH Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and DG SANTE, instituted a new mechanism. This mechanism includes quarterly coordination meetings, a comprehensive plan of action, and a repository of field projects and joint activities. The objective is to deliver significant outcomes and provide robust support to member countries, prioritising diseases of utmost concern in the region. This strategic approach reflects a commitment to adaptability and collaboration in addressing evolving animal health challenges.

Most of the regional GF-TADs regions have established Standing Groups of Experts (SGE) to engage Members, partners, and experts on regional priority diseases that includes ASF, high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), lumpy skin disease (LSD), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia [CBPP], and Rabies) and to exchange of knowledge, and agree on capacity building priorities coordinate activities.

Other regional coordination mechanisms include the regional roadmaps for FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR). In 2023, joint FAO/WOAH roadmaps were successfully held for West Eurasia, addressing FMD and PPR, and for South Asia, addressing FMD, PPR and LSD, demonstrating and promoting a synergistic approach where multiple disease events/meetings could be held together or back-to-back.

Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP)

The Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP) of the GF-TADs was established in 2022 The main objective of the PFP is to provide strategic guidance and advice to the governing bodies of the GF-TADs, including the Management Committee, Global Steering Committee and Regional Steering Committees, on improving partnering and financing for the prevention and control of priority TADs in Member countries and territories. The PFP comprises 13 members who are from various related disciplines with substantial knowledge and experience in the aspects of controlling TADs. The PFP members have met five times in the period of this report (PFP Meetings 6-10th). In this period, the first chair of the PFP Dr Carolin Schumacher stepped down and Prof. Cheikh Ly took over. Also, Prof Ulf Magnusson was elected as the vice chair of the PFP. The work of the panel on the three main work streams continued during the period of this report: The activities undertook under the three workstreams are summarized below.

- **WS1: Stakeholder mapping**

1- A stakeholder mapping exercise on PPR and West Africa was conducted by Yushan Li, an intern at FAO under the supervision of the PFP, as the foundation for a reviewed approach to organize/deliver on GF-TAD program; 2- Promising results of the mapping exercise to be considered as an innovative case study that could be rolled out for other TADs and other regions; 3- Results underscored the importance of region-specific strategies and detailed execution plans; 4- Process delayed due to human resource issues but will be resumed once Yushan Li and a new intern at WOAH join in April 2024.

- **WS2: Advocacy and communication.**

The progress has been slow due to human resource limitation (only one meeting organized under this WS) but work will resume by the new Intern joining from WOAH side in April 2024.

- **WS3: Resource mobilization**

1- Initial data gathered on resources mobilized through FAO and WOAH on livestock health, including some financial figures, breaking down expenditures and allocations; 2- Work on resource mobilization should be emphasized; 3- Need to define a mechanism for exposure and resource mobilization advocacy; 4- Need to be aligned with FAO/WOAH resource mobilization and partnership with donors present in PFP or with an agenda related with PFP; 5- International resource partners seem to prioritize broader animal health initiatives, rather than “single-disease focused” initiatives; 6- Key actors are often missing or are not clearly involved.

- **Regional involvement of PFP:**

Issues to be highlighted with respect to regional involvement of the PFP in the reporting period is summarised as follows. 1- Willingness among PFP-members to represent the PFP in regional meetings. 2- Calendar of upcoming events made available (dates, venues, themes, annual planning); 3- Feedback by PFP on an advocacy document produced by PPR secretariat for Perm Reps (November 2023); 4- Collaboration on organization of the Middle East-GF TADs Regional Steering Com. in view of meeting planned to be held in June 2024, to share on PFP experience and views. 5- Participation to Global Research and Expertise Network of PPR (GREN) and the PPR Advisory Committee Meeting held in India, on 1-2 December 2023; 6- Contribution to regional priorities in term

of TADs and activities for capacity strengthening; 7- Sharing experience on mapping for Resource Mobilisation; 8- Participation regional Steering Committee in Asia: draft recommendations and strategy and workplan.

Particular observations with respect to attendance of a PFP member (Dr Rabindra Singh) in PPR GREN and the PPR Advisory Committee were: 1- PPR GREN and PPR Advisory Committee highlighted resource mobilization and funding as a great challenge; 2- Recommendations of PFP on PPR Blueprint document have been incorporated and actions seen on the ground and there was a clear acknowledgement of contributions of PFP in the PPR Blueprint review; 3- From the last meeting of the PPR AC and based on the updated AC ToR, "PFP chair" will be one of the Members of PPR AC; 4- PFP can add value, to be acknowledged by the PPR joint secretariat; 5- the level of interactions and communications between the joint PPR secretariat and the PFP and other GF-TADs actors to be improved; 6- time adjustments of 2030 as PPR eradication will impact speed of work, but the proposed timetable was accepted.

PFP Global issues observed during the reporting period include: 1- high level of willingness and interest among PFP-members, but progress is still slow; 2- participation of key stakeholders is still not regular despite commitments confirmed; 3- willingness to review and formulate guidance, but participation in global and regional meetings and taking responsibilities for specific tasks frequently interferes with other activities and responsibilities of PFP members.

KPIs of the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025

Introduction

The GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 was launched in December 2021 during the GSC12. It was structured in three main objectives and nine outputs presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Objectives and outputs of the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025.

Impact	***Priority TADs are controlled, leading to improved food security and nutrition, reduced poverty and enhanced safe trade of livestock and animal products***		
Objectives	**1. Establish strategies for priority TADs at the sub-regional, regional, and global level**	**2. Develop and maintain capacities to prevent and control TADs**	**3.Improve sustainability of strategies to control priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships**
Outputs	1.1: facilitate and coordinate TADs prioritization.	2.1: Address capacity gaps identified and priorities for capacity building.	3.1: Strengthen engagement and coordination with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.
	1.2: formulate regional and sub-regional TADs control strategies.	2.2: Strengthen multi-disciplinary planning for the prevention and control of priority TADs.	3.2: Improve advocacy skills for TADs control.
	1.3: Establish mechanisms for harmonized/coordinated planning.	2.3: Provide harmonized mechanisms/tools to monitor the control of priority TADs.	3.3: Promote sustainable funding mechanisms.

With the support of MC members and M&E specialists, the GS has developed a set of key performance Indicators (KPIs) for the different levels of impact, objectives, and outputs of the strategy (Table 2). However, this exercise revealed that data for some of these indicators were either not available or difficult to interpret in a meaningful way and therefore revision or re-defining of these indicators is required.

Table 2: key performance indicators on the GF-TADs Strategy 2021-2025.

Level	Indicator	Status	Link
	Presence of priority TADs	Ongoing work based on WAHIS 6-monthly report and enriched by EMPRES-i data	
1	Coverage of strategies	Dashboard on TADs strategies under progress	Dashboard
1.1	TADs prioritisation	Data on RSC conclusion collected	
1.2	Development/revision of strategy as requested + time for development	Dashboard on TADs strategies under progress	
1.3	Coordinating platform	Indicator to be revised	
2	Countries scores on assessment tools	Collecting digitalised data (PCP-FMD, PPR PMAT, PVS, ASF outcome survey), availability of other tools to be confirmed	
2.1	Countries completing relevant assessment	Collecting digitalised data (PCP-FMD, PPR PMAT, PVS, ASF outcome survey), availability of other tools to be confirmed	
2.2	Multi disciplinarity in control plans and diversity in stakeholders engaged	Data could be collected from concept notes and registration, pending some harmonised tools to be prepared	
2.3	Strategies with M&E (KPI) implemented	Dashboard on TADs strategies under progress	

3	National inputs on budget of TADs strategies	Indicator to be revised (no data or very challenging to access across the Members)	
3.1	Partnership developed with relevant stakeholders and active	Data collection process to be determined (started from WOAH/FAO list of agreements, ongoing)	
3.2	Advocacy material developed and disseminated	Data collection process to be determined (e.g., via socioeconomic studies conducted, GBADs, etc.)	
3.3	Resource mobilisation strategies developed for each TADs	Indicator to be revised in light of PFP's progress under the three defined workstreams	

Indicators reflecting the impact of the GF-TADs Strategy

The impact of GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 is measured through a number of indicators among them is the reported presence or absence of priority TADs. Calculated values for these two indicators are presented in this report for the period of 2018 to 2023. Specifically, the time horizon between 2018 to 2020 has been included in order to display a longer time window that provides a better observation of the TADs trends. For this first report of the indicators reflecting the impact, only WAHIS data have been used for the analysis, while further development has been planned to integrate other available data sources such as EMPRES-i in future iterations. For each region, the available data from the covered Members (see Figure 5) were used. It must be noticed that some Members were present in two regions in the dataset that were included in the analyses of both regions.

A) Absence/Presence of priority TADs

The first indicator considered reflects the trends in absence or presence of priority TADs and is based on the percentage of six-monthly validated reports submitted to WAHIS that indicated the presence or absence of TADs by region in domestic animals. Only validated reports were considered so the denominator varies in each semester, the number of contributions for this indicator may increase in the future as more historical semestrial reports are expected. For each region, global and regional priority TADs (included from 1st January 2023) are represented in Figures 6-10 (number of validated reports available is indicated by the brown line, the data is discrete by nature and points between each semester have been connected for visual purpose).

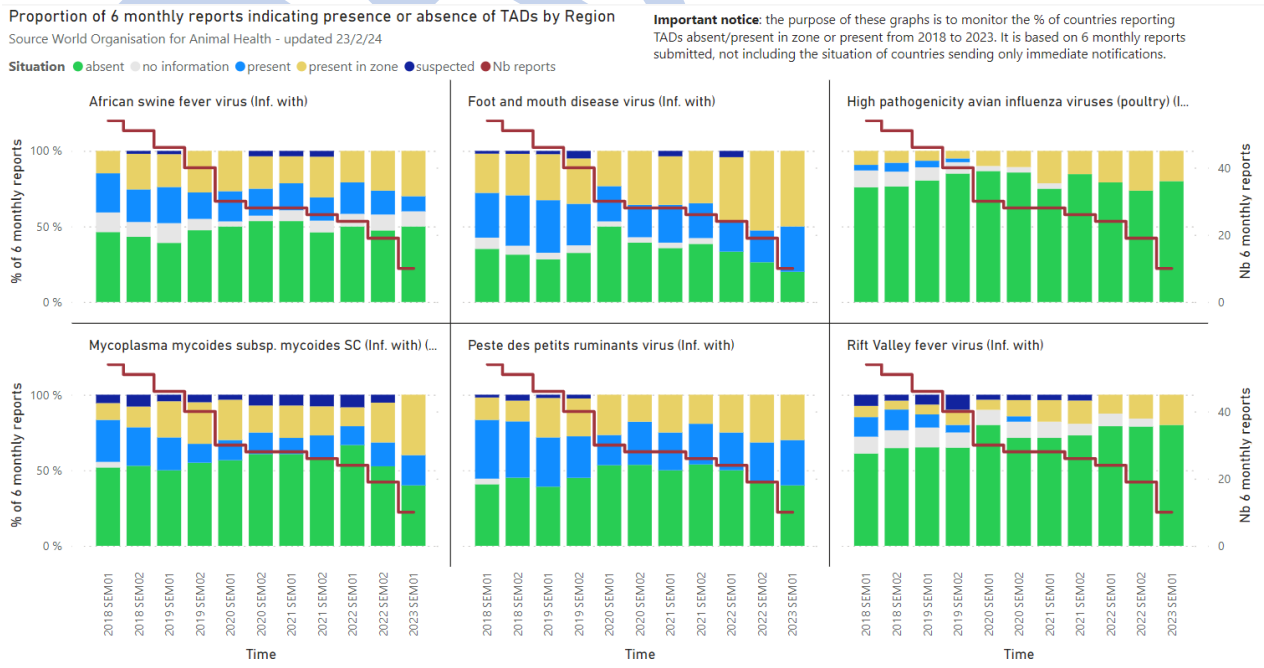

Figure 6: Percentage of Presence/Absence of priority TADs reported in Africa.

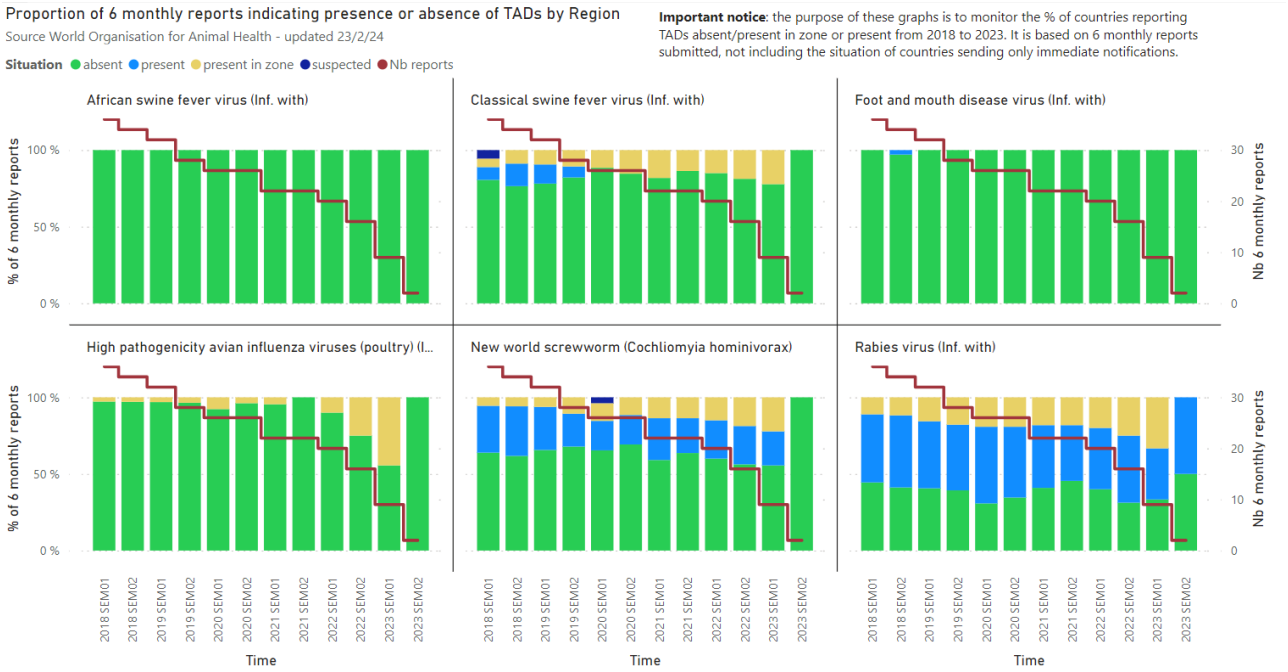

Figure 7: Percentage of Presence/Absence of priority TADs reported in the Americas.

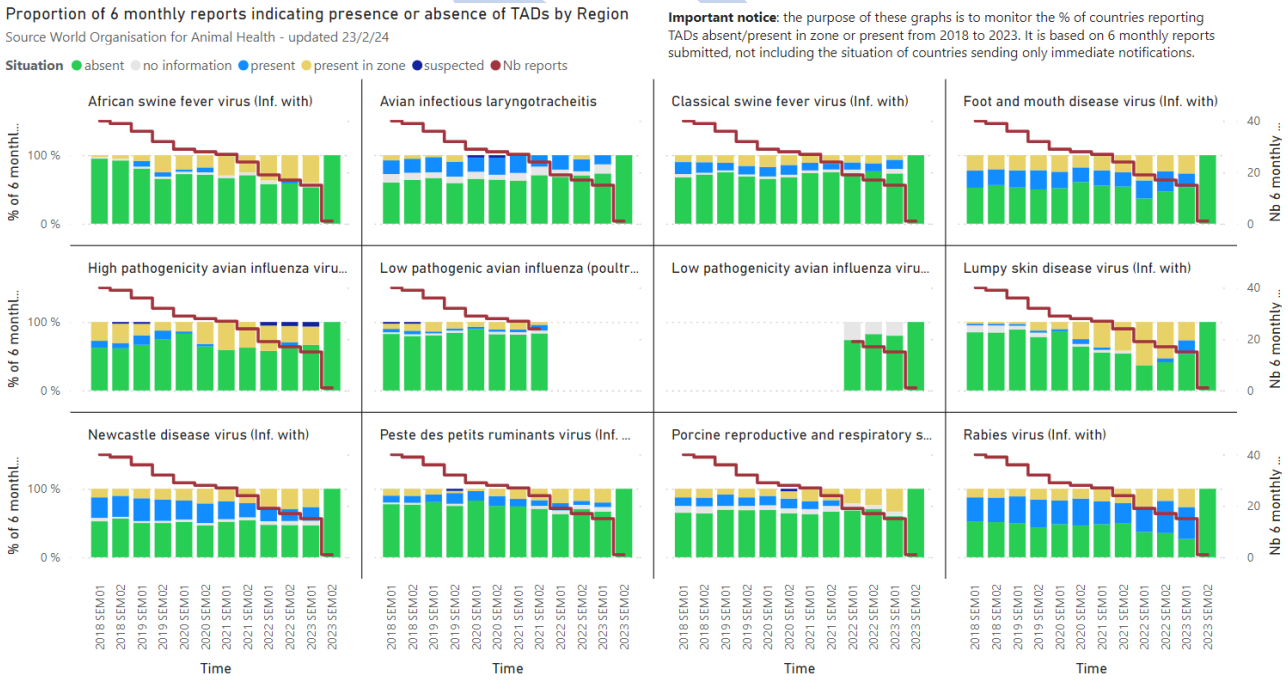

Figure 8: Percentage of Presence/Absence of priority TADs reported in Asia and the Pacific.

Additional TADs have been reported to illustrate the regional priorities on infectious disease of birds (Avian Infectious Laryngotracheitis (AIL), low pathogenetic avian influenza in poultry (LPAI), low pathogenetic avian influenza of zoonotic importance (LPAIz), New Castle Disease Virus (NDV), together with HPAI) and the infectious diseases of pigs (Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS), together with ASF).

Figure 9: Percentage of Presence/Absence of priority TADs reported in Europe.

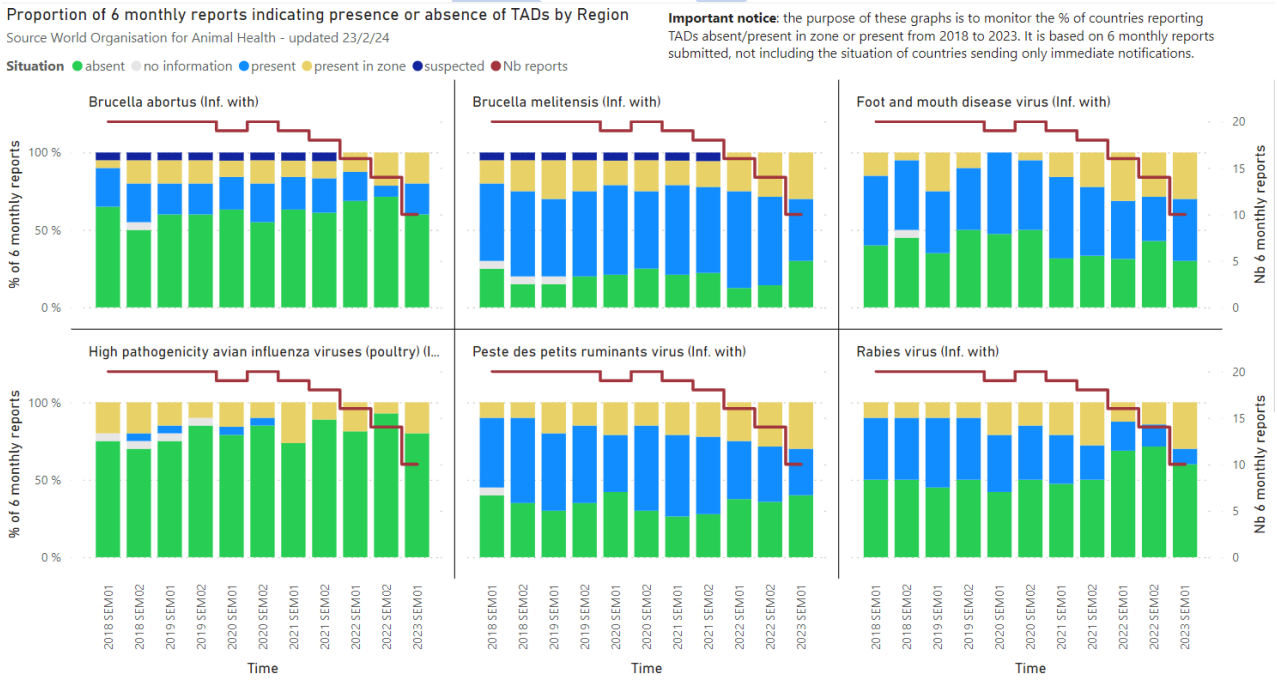

Figure 10: Percentage of Presence/Absence of priority TADs reported in the Middle East.

For Brucellosis (BRU), the situation of infection with *Brucella abortus* and infection with *Bucella mellitensis* were added. The situation of infection with *Brucella suis* was not considered as a priority in the Middle East.

B) Number of reported presence/suspicions of global priority TADs

The second indicator considered represents the number of reports to WAHIS database indicating presence or suspicion of priority TADs in domestic and wild animals in each of the five GF-TADs regions. These figures are composed of the six-monthly TADS situation, informed by the validated six-monthly reports and the results of

notification of outbreaks submitted to WAHIS, so that it contains information from Members that have notified the WOAH about TADs outbreaks even if their six-monthly reports have not been validated for that period.

For this activity report, the focus is given on four global priority TADs (Rinderpest excluded as it was eradicated) in Figures 11- 14.

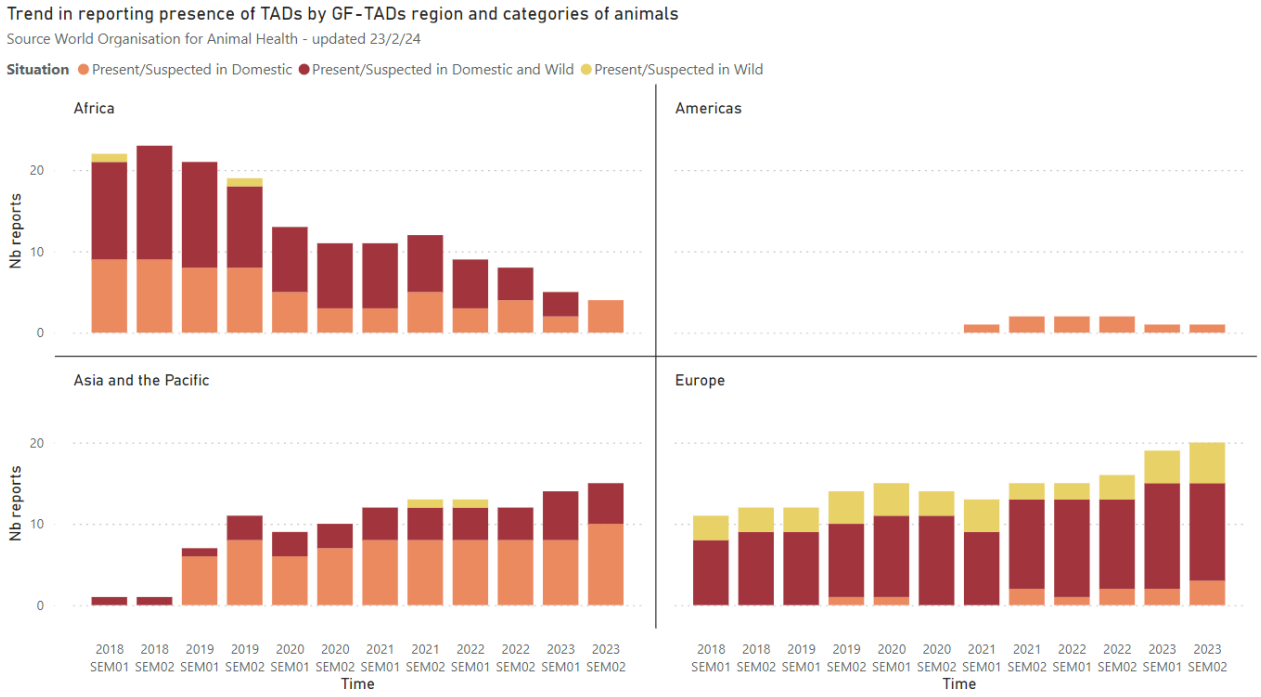

Figure 11: Number of countries reporting presence/suspicion of ASF by GF-TADs region in domestic and wild animals.

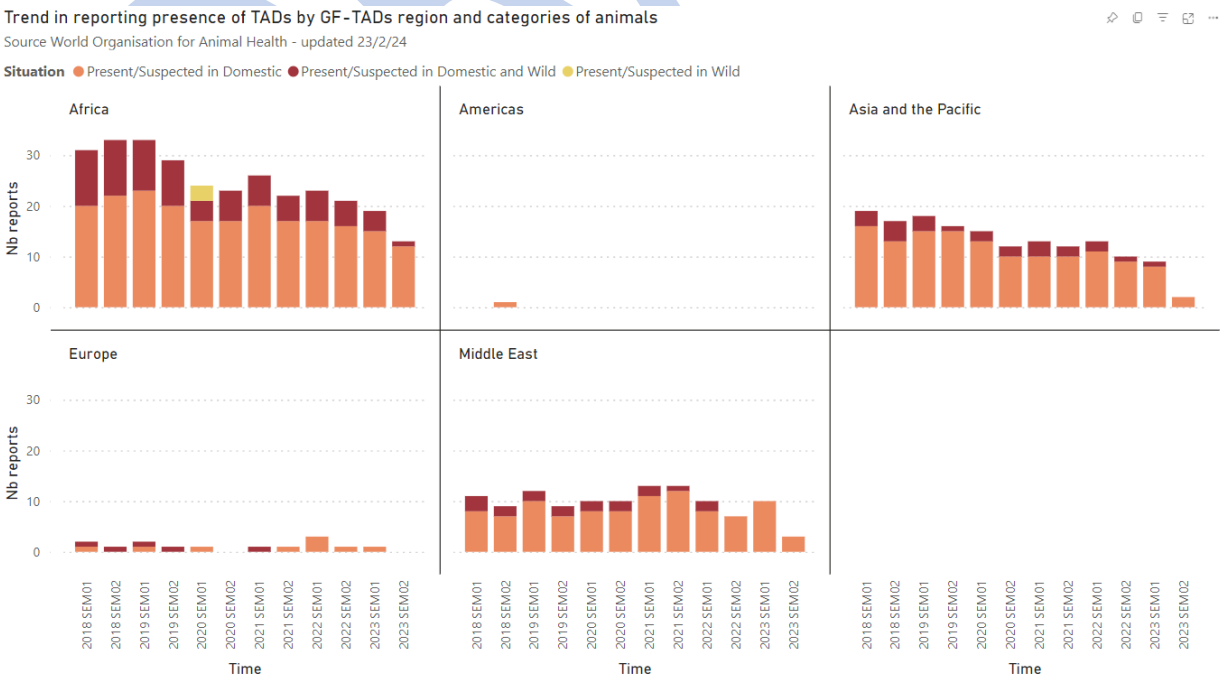

Figure 12: Number of countries reporting presence/suspicion of FMD by GF-TADs region in domestic and wild animals.

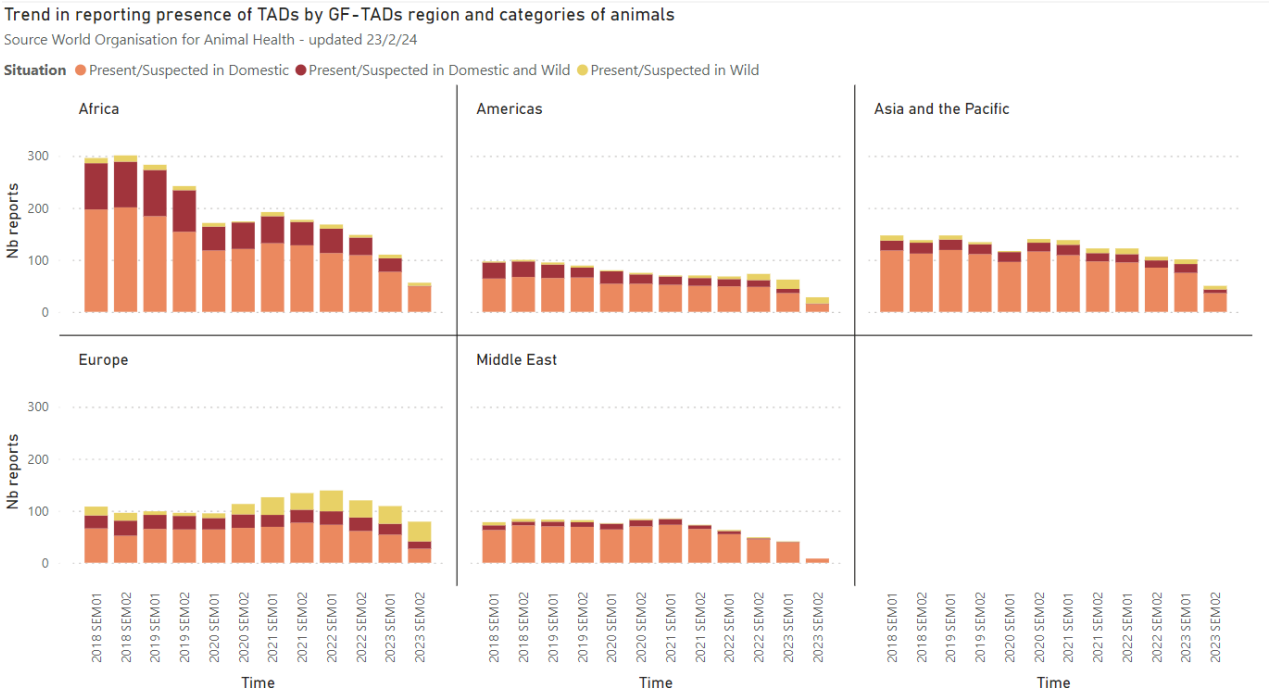

Figure 13: Number of countries reporting presence/suspicion of HPAI by GF-TADs region in domestic and wild animals.

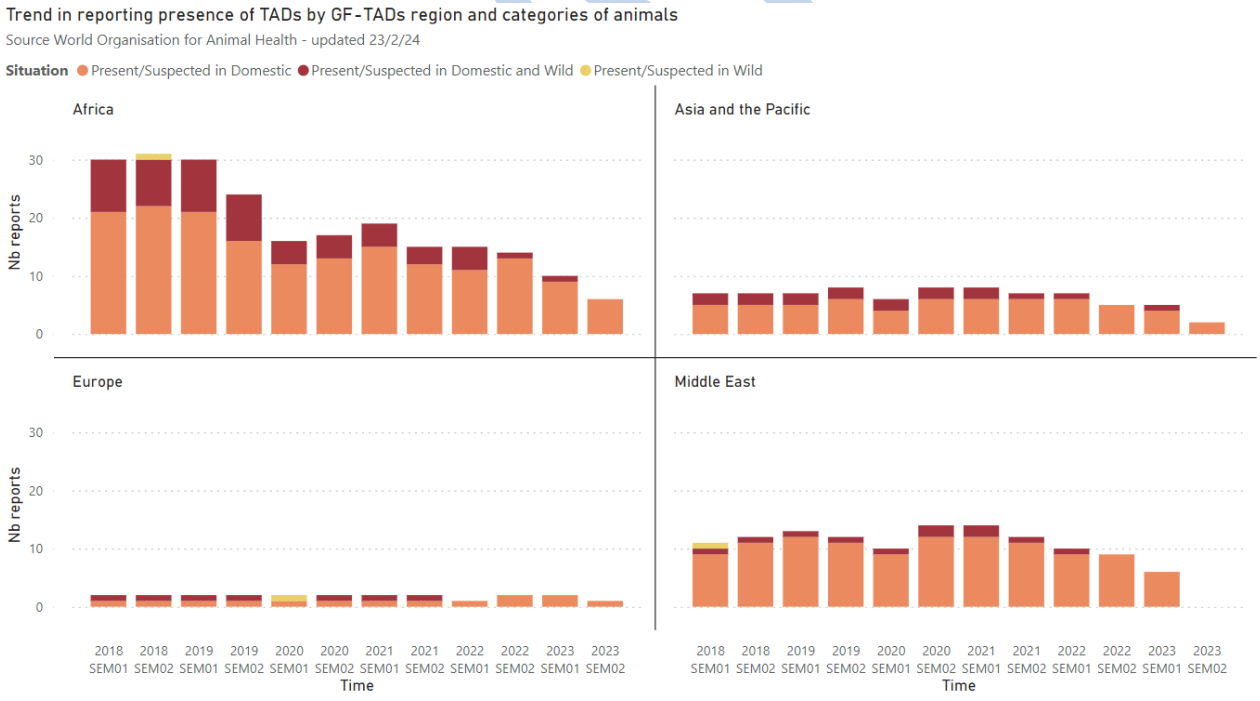

Figure 14:Number of countries reporting presence/suspicion of PPR by GF-TADs region in domestic and wild animals.

Interpretation and limitations

Caution should be exercised when interpreting the data and results presented as changes have occurred during the time window on the disease notifications for example in the case of HPAI, as well as changes have applied to the tool used for notification. In addition, it should be noted that certain occurrence codes were grouped

together to simplify reading of the figures. It is the first time that such indicators are provided and therefore further interpretations, clarifications improvement on presentation are expected in the next updates.

Exception for a few cases including RVF in Africa and, LSD and PPR in Europe, the general tendency observed in all the regions was decreasing proportion of reports indicating absence of TADs.

The availability of data from six monthly reports is maximal for the older period 2018-2019 which could induce a bias. This situation is due to reduced number of validated reports after the change in WAHIS reporting system that needed a period of adaptation for the focal point and interference during the COVID19 period on the reporting activity by Members. The availability of validated reports will progressively increase in the future through the regular interactions between WOAH and Members focal points, validating missing reports from previous semesters, so these situation reports should be reconsidered regularly.

Results, show an increasing trend of spread for ASF and HPAI in the different GF-TADs regions, in both domestic and wild animals. For these two TADs, the situation in wildlife is alarming and indicating the necessity of active engagement with the One Health initiative. For FMD and PPR the situation remains favourable in Americas and Europe. Apparent decreasing trends can be seen for FMD in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Similar decreasing trends can be seen for PPR in Africa. Although this evolution needs to be confirmed over time, it constitutes an encouraging signal as these two diseases have been actively monitored and followed under the GF-TADs.

The relationship between observed trends of TADs, and the impacts of the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 in one hand, and the TADs specific strategies on the other hand, on the observed TADs trends is complex. Causal effects between the observed trends and GF-TADs activities are not explored at that stage. However, these initial observations highlight the importance of surveillance, reporting and transparency from GF-TADs Members and the crucial role international organisations and their partners to support these efforts and strengthen capacities when needed.

The next paragraphs, present an overview of the ongoing work by the global secretariat of the GF-TADs on indicators measuring progress of the nine identified outputs of the strategy.

Objective 1: Establish strategies for priority TADs at sub-regional, regional, and global level.

Data collection activity related to this objective indicator is ongoing It is expected that these data will provide an overview of the priority TADs strategies at various levels.

Output 1.1: Facilitate and coordinate TADs prioritization.

The priority TADs have been regularly updated since the adoption of the strategy, at the occasion of the global and regional steering committees. Table 3 summarizes the priority TADs by the end of 2023. At global level, the GF-TADs focuses currently on 5 priorities: ASF, FMD, HPAI, PPR and Rinderpest post eradication. At regional level, the priorities TADs were updated in Africa and Americas in 2021, in Asia Pacific in 2023, in Europe in 2022 and workshop is in preparation that will address this objective in 2024.

Table 3 : Global and regional priority TADs, the last GSC and RSC meeting where these priorities discusses and links to global and regional webpages.

Region	Priority TADs	Last Meeting	URLs
Global	FMD, PPR, ASF, HPAI, Rinderpest	Jan 2023	LINK
Africa	FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP and RVF)	Jun 2022	Link 1 Link 2
Americas	FMD, ASF, CSF, AI, Rabies, and Screwworm.	Sep 2022	Link 1 Link 2

Asia-Pacific	ASF (and other infectious diseases of pigs), FMD, PPR, LSD, AI (and other infectious disease of poultry)	Feb 2023	Link 1 Link 2
Europe	FMD, ASF, PPR, LSD, AI, and Rabies	Oct 2022	Link 1 Link 2
Middle East	FMD, PPR, Rabies, RVF and Brucellosis	May 2023	Link 1 Link 2

Figures 15 to 19 below illustrate the dynamics of priority TADs from2010 onward.

At global level, FMD, PPR, ASF, HPAI and Rinderpest have been considered as priority from 2010/11 until the date of this report. Rabies was removed from the list in 2021. LSD was added in 2021 until 2023? Reinforcement of VS and implementing GSC recommendations were on the global priority lists from 2013 t0 2021.

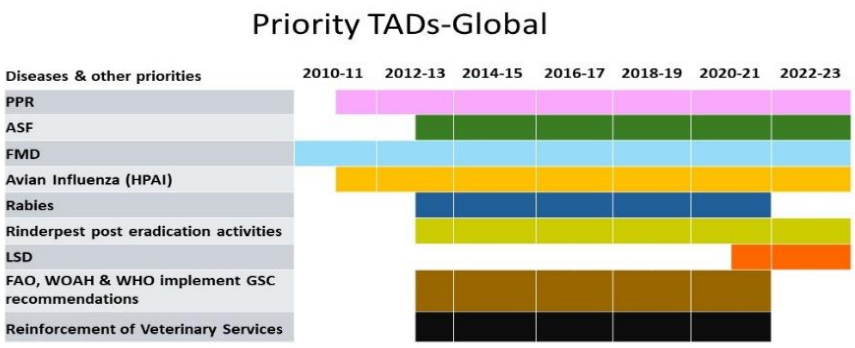

Figure 15: GF-TADs priorities at Global level over time.

In Africa, PPR, FMD, CBPP, RVF and ASF remain as priority from 2010/11 until now. The period of 2014-2020 is considered as an inactive period as there was no active RSC in place. Rinderpest, Rabies and ND were removed from the list in 2011, 2013 and 2013 respectively.

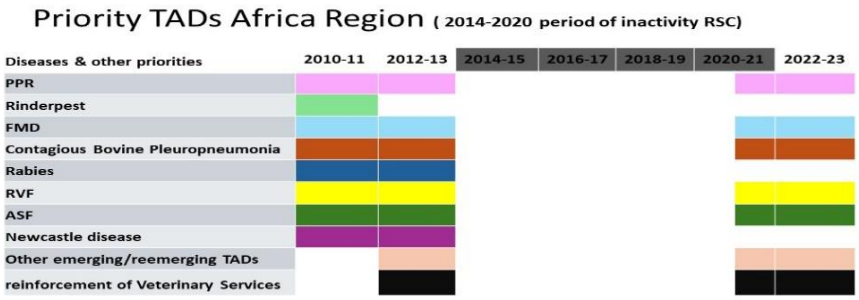

Figure 16: GF-TADs priorities at Africa level over time.

In America, FMD, HPAI, Rabies, CSF and Screwworm remain on the priority disease list from 2010 until now. ASF was added in 2020 and BSE was removed from the list in 2021. Reinforcement of VSs added to the priority of the region in 2012 that remains on the list.

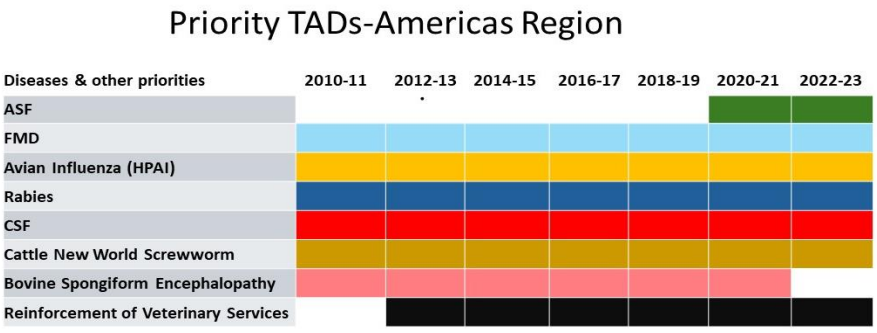

Figure 17: GF-TADs priorities at Americas level over time.

In Asia-Pacific, FMD, PPR, and HPAI remain on the priority list from 2010 until now. ASF was added to the list in 2018 and LSD in 2023. CSF was added in 2010 and removed in 2017. ASF and other emerging TADs were added in 2018 that remain on the list until now. Rabies was on the list from 2010 until it was removed in 2022. Improving advocacy was on the list in a period between 2012 to 2016 whereas reinforcing VSs added in 2012 that remains on the list until today.

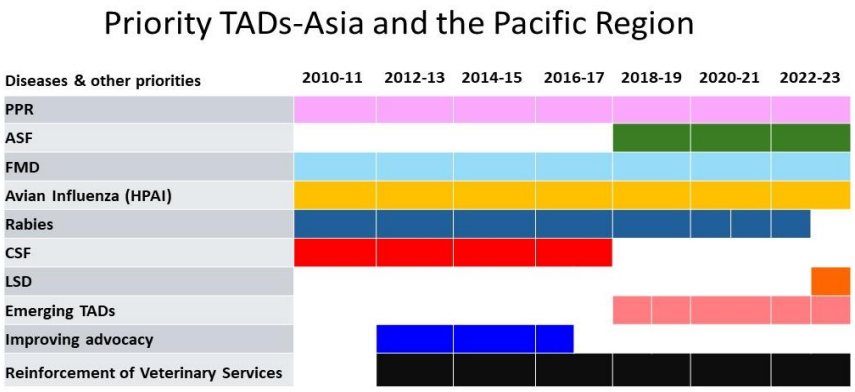

Figure 18: GF-TADs priorities at Asia and the Pacific level over time.

In Europe, PPR, ASF, FMD, HPA and Rabies consistently remain on the priority list from 2010 until now. RVF and LSD were included in 2017 and removed in 2022, whereas Brucellosis and CSF were included in 2012 and removed in 2022. LSD was added to the list in 2017 that remains on the list at this time.

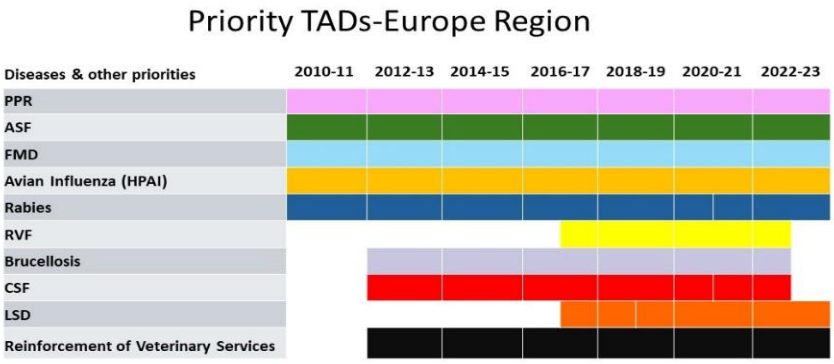

Figure 19: GF-TADs priorities at European level over time.

In the Middle East, FMD, RVF, and HPAI have been on the priority list from 2010 until today. Rinder pet removed in 20211 and, Brucellosis, SGP, Bluetongue, and Glanders were in the list only in 2012-2013. Rabies was added to the list in 2020 that remains until now Period between 2014 to 2019 is considered as an inactive period due to lack of presence of an active RSC.

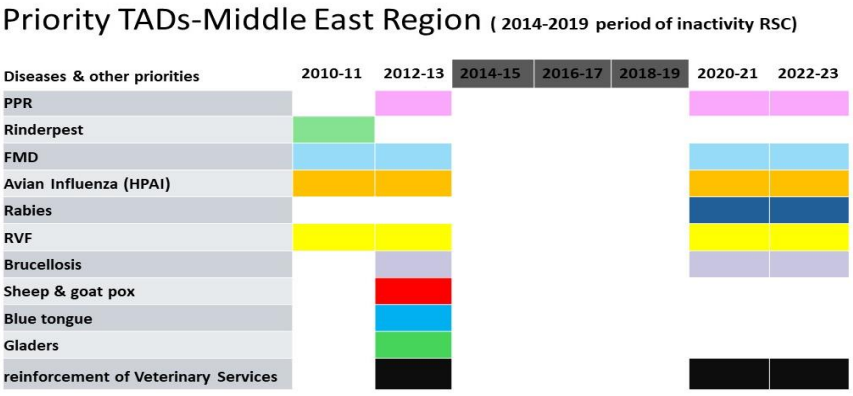

Figure 20: GF-TADs priorities at Middle East level over time.

At the time of this report, there is no formal methodology developed for TADs regional prioritisation, and the process is based on consensus among RSC members considering factors such as i) convergence of national

priorities, ii) added value to develop coordination at subregional or regional level to improve prevention and control of the priority TADs and iii) the context of existing initiatives and capacity to actually cover priorities, pending available resources.
The inclusion of Rabies as a GF-TADs priority has been discussed in Africa, Asia and Pacific and Europe in a context where the quadripartite mechanism seems to be more adapted to follow the dog mediated component of Rabies. In Europe, the standing group of experts on Rabies is focusing on wildlife Rabies. Situation of Rabies in Americas and the Middle East will be reconsidered in future regional steering committee meetings. The place of HPAI, following the development of the GF-TADs HPAI Control Strategy will also be considered in 2024 in Africa and the Middle East regions. It should be noted that Brucellosis and RVF are two zoonotic diseases placed as regional priority TADs in the Middle East and in Africa respectively, which would also require dedicated coordination to ensure complementarity without overlap with the quadripartite mechanism. In addition to specific TADs, crosscutting topics such as reinforcement of veterinary services and, to a less extent, emerging TADs, have been prioritised in all regions, which should be reflected in the development of action plans.

Output 1.2 Formulate regional and sub-regional TADs control strategies.

The development of global strategies or initiatives provide guidance for the development of regional and subregional action plans for global priority TADs. Without entering the details of the TADs specific chapter, this section provides an overview of strategy developments.

ASF: is covered by a global initiative launched in 2020 addressing four of the five GF-TADs regions (the Middle East excluded). A regional framework has been updated for Americas following the introduction of the disease to Dominican Republic and Haiti. A continental strategy for Africa has been developed and to be adopted by the AU-IBAR and a subregional strategy has been adopted by ASEAN in Southeast Asia. In all four regions, standing group of experts provide regional-based recommendations. An ASF Global coordination committee stablished in 2023 with the aim of strengthening inter-regional exchange of experiences, challenges and priorities.

FMD: The FMD global control strategy has a global coverage, while the activities of the FMD working group are focused on specific subregions often reflected in FMD road maps, where the disease has been present, and no coordination mechanism existed. The subregions that are not supervised under the FMD working group include Americas, Europe, North Africa and Southeast Asia plus China and Mongolia. Americas is covered by PANAFTOSA, Europe is covered by the EuFMD, North Africa is covered by REMESA and Southeast Asia plus China and Mongolia is covered by SEAC FMD. These subregions also benefit from the tools and methods developed in the context of the FMD global control strategy. A FMD global coordination committee (GCC-FMD) was established in 2022 to strengthen inter-regional exchange of experiences, challenges, and priorities.

PPR: The PPR eradication strategy has a global coverage, while the activities of the PPR Secretariat are focused on the subregions where the disease is present (PPR road maps). A revised global blueprint has been defined to organise the next phases of the global eradication programme (GEP II) and adapt the approach based on the experience of the first phase (GEP I). A continental strategy has been developed and adopted by the AU-IBAR for Africa, with supports received from the PPR Secretariat that will promote further contextualisation of the strategy in Africa as well as resource mobilisation. Development of a subregional strategy is being considered for South Asia. In Southeast Asia, where the disease is not reported, a preparedness and contingency strategy has been developed.

At the time of this report, development of the HPAI global control strategy, that started in the second semester of 2022, is almost completed, under the supervision of the HPAI task force. It is envisaged that the HPAI global control strategy to be launched in the occasion of GSC14 meeting, in May 2024.

Regarding the TADs that are not on global priority list, a subregional strategy for LSD is under development in Southeast Asia, standing group of experts provide regional-specific recommendations for LSD in Asia-Pacific and in Europe as well as for CBPP in Africa and for Rabies vaccination in wildlife in Europe.

In addition, the regional steering committees have adopted action plans or regional strategies that summarize the main priorities to be addressed in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East. The action plan for the

Middle East will be reviewed in 2024, while the contextualisation of the action plan in the four subregions of Asia-Pacific (i.e., South Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific and East Asia) are in progress.

Output 1.3 Establish mechanisms for harmonized/coordinated planning

A coordinated shared workplan between FAO and WOAH has been developed in 2023, that is available on the SharePoint platform that all FAO and WOAH GF-TADs users have access to it and can consult it through TADs- and regional-specific filters. The scope of this shared workplan primarily include activities organised jointly under the GF-TADs, and inclusion of the activities that are organized independently by either organisation is highly encouraged d that contribute to the objectives of the respective strategies. The shared workplan is informed by the disease working groups/secretariats and regional teams with the support from the global secretariat. Although the maintenance of such workplans across the disease working groups/secretariat and the five regions might be challenging but it would potentially increase complementarity, reduce risk of overlapping or conflicting agendas and would inform annual activity reports such as the current report.

Figures 21 illustrates the scope of the activities, by topic or by region, included in the joint workplan that were proposed either for 2024 or activities without specified timeline. The workplan is continuously being updated and it is therefore envisaged the observed issues such as blank entries will be rectified as the workplans are updated.

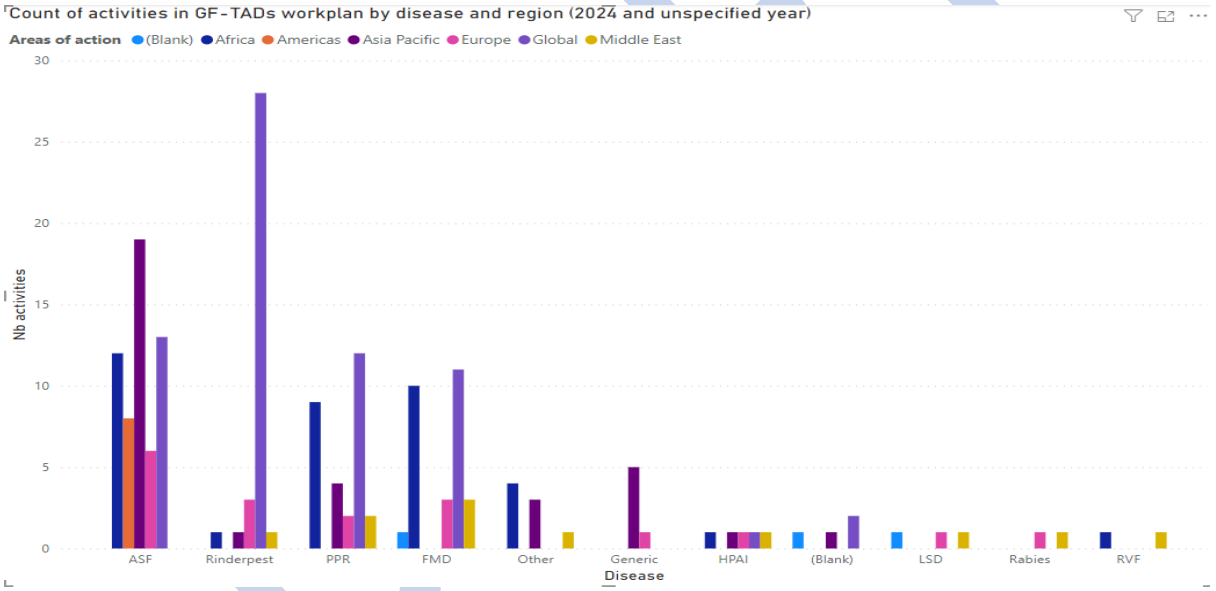

Figure 21: Activities included in the GF-TADs workplan, either for 2024 or unknown year by topic and by region.

At regional levels, while the regional steering committees provide a forum to exchange on priorities to formulate work plans with an overview on all priorities, the regional road maps and SGEs provide opportunities to exchange on specific TADs. Also, RMMs and SGEs are platforms where partners can inform about recent, ongoing, and upcoming activities and discuss through recommendations the priorities to elaborate future work plans. However, it should be noticed that the process to match the priorities identified and recommendations formulated in these meetings with the suggested work plans is not systematic or harmonised, and therefore demands coordination efforts. In Americas, a specific mechanism was established to coordinate planned activities between partners for the prevention and control of ASF. However, due to human resource constraints, this process stopped in 2023.

Objective 2: Develop and maintain capacities to prevent and control TADs

Part of the data required to inform this indicator, depend on the digitalization of scores of Members, generated by using the relevant tools that have been developed to assess capacities or progress along priority TADs

strategies. The digitalisation process has been done for PCP-FMD, and soon will be available for PVS and PPR – PMAT, Work is in progress for digitalization of other existing tools including SET, LMT, and PMP-B.

Output 2.1: Address capacity gaps identified and priorities for capacity building.

The indicator related to this output provides an overview of implementation of assessment tools by Members and the year of implementation. This is now pending and will be completed once the digitalisation of data has been finalized. In addition to specific assessment tools, coordination meetings at global and regional levels (i.e., RSCs, Roadmaps, SGEs, etc. regularly contribute to the identification of needs for capacity building. The ongoing digitalisation process of the scores generated by the assessment tools, as well as digitalization of the recommendations from meetings, will provide an improved insight to specific needs and gaps. This approach is being piloted in the context of a planned workshop for the Middle East region in 2024.

The Global Secretariat has compiled conclusions from the GF-TADs regional meetings held since 2018 to provide a synthetic overview of the main needs identified (Table 4).

Table 4: Generic gaps identified by Global Secretariat.

Gap Categories	Examples common technical issues
Risk Assessments	Need for risk analyses to reinforce risk management (preparedness, surveillance, detection, and response); better understanding of the value chain (on farm, at slaughter, when processing), need for socio-economic assessments and impact
Disease communication/ Outreach	Maintain high level awareness among farmers, veterinarians, butchers, hunters, input suppliers and other value chain stakeholders; improve access to knowledge; enhanced risk communication strategies and community engagement; lack of transparency on information sharing between neighbouring countries (regions) and trade partners; use of platforms and mechanisms for coordination of risk communication messaging.
Biosecurity	Strengthen biosecurity practices; Improve on-farm biosecurity and at national level; improve disposal and cleaning and disinfection techniques; farmers should be incentivised to implement single solid or double fences and adequate biosecurity practices to prevent contact between domestic animals and wildlife.
Access to vaccines/ Vaccination Campaign Strategies	Absence of an export market and costs of vaccines the main restrictions for not establishing a concerted national vaccination programme or investments in vaccines; development/validation of vaccines; matching (FMD, PPR); post-vaccination monitoring (FMD, PPR); measure post-vaccination responses against representative viruses for circulating serotypes and lineages; vaccination should be rationalized in relation to the episystems approach and targeted based on risk.
Laboratory Support	Improve laboratory diagnostics/capacity; search for rapid screening tools; sample submission/shipment; sharing information on circulating strains; encourage national laboratories to participate in proficiency testing schemes; identify resources for the establishment of a regional antigen and/or vaccine bank in collaboration with vaccine manufacturers and development partners;

Wildlife	Improve control measures of disease in wildlife populations (e.g. core zones); countries should implement preparedness, surveillance, and response measure in wildlife populations; strengthen collaboration between the Veterinary Services and the wildlife authorities
Access to safe trade	All countries to implement WOAH standards; compartmentalization/zoning, business continuity, disease-free recognition status
Legislations and regulatory frameworks	Ensure HR and financial support, business continuity, depopulation/compensation schemes, disease reporting, lack of financial incentives to farmers to report suspicion; national and strategic plans; enhance political will; revise and update of national legislation to ensure that the legal framework
Emergency/Control/Contingency plans (Outbreak Management)	Risk mitigation (operational plans, capacities, and procedures); contingency planning, prevention, early detection, and rapid response; improve outbreak management; combine the prevention and control activities for all livestock diseases; outbreak notification; simulation exercises
Surveillance and Epidemiology	Improve field investigations; improve data collection and management; better design of early detection surveillance strategies and activities; availability of real-time surveillance information; harmonisation of epidemiological methods and a regional approach is important to ensure that different country and regional situations are appropriately assessed and understood; improve disease reporting; monitor circulating strains
Movement control	Movement control within countries and between countries (zoning and compartmentalization); buffer zones; improved border control/inspections; reduce illegal practices such as the smuggling of animal products and live animals during travel and migration; improve identification of animals and traceability; nomadism

The gaps identified, although reported in a generic way, illustrate the need for application of multidisciplinary approaches.

Output 2.2: Strengthen multi-disciplinary planning for the prevention and control of priority TADs.

The indicators for this output suggest measuring the association of different key disciplines and diversity of stakeholders involved in capacity building activities., However, the tools to facilitate data collection with minimized efforts and inputs from the users are under development at the time of this report.

The Global Secretariat has compiled recommendations from the GF-TADs global and regional meetings held since 2018 to 2022 that provides a synthetic overview of the approaches proposed to strengthen the multidisciplinary planning for the capacity building activities (Table 5).

Table 5: Recommendations to improve performance and efficiency of planning capacity building activities.

Needs	Possible solutions to improve performance and efficiency	Recommendations
Partnerships/ Collaborations	Foster cooperation between countries (cross border) at the regional level, global level – all relevant stakeholders. Foster PPPs, joint emergency preparedness and simulation	GSC12 - 3, 5, 13, 4, 17, 19, 29, 30

	exercises; enhance communication and advocate strategies with specific stakeholders to connect at their level TADs control and broader challenges; promote development of multi-stakeholder platforms to build bridges between PPPs; promote innovation, exchange of information, and invest in research on existing knowledge gaps in the epidemiology of TADs; facilitate collaboration to enable rapid detection and efficient response to outbreaks.	
Capacity building/ training	Mutualize tools between TADs, develop activities serving multiple TADs; capacity building for biosecurity along the value chain and increasing public awareness; develop technical (labs, field investigations) and operational capacities (emergency systems); improve use of these tools among users.	GSC12 - 1, 13, 14, 17, 18, 29
Political engagement and investment	Advocacy for ministerial commitment (political will) targeting sustainable momentum and investment; support enabling famer's representation; identify and publish success stories; secure specific funds/financial support for disease related activities; provide advisory support for national strategic plans.	GSC12 - 2, 4, 13, 15, 16
Evidence	Collect evidence, case studies, socio-economic assessment at local level, develop and use SMART indicators at global and regional levels, quantify vaccine needs.	GCS12 - 7, 13, 18, 19
Enabling legal environment	Support transversal work on legislation, compensation scheme/insurance, harmonized registration of vaccines and tender process; support PPPs; ensure sustainable financial and human resourcing for animal health services	GCS12 - 8, 13, 14
Reactivity	Pre-qualification system, vaccine banks, support to preparedness and contingency planning, joint simulation exercises	GCS12 - 9, 13,
Continuous support for expertise	Support for PSO, TSEs, networks, increase collaboration for technical support from FAO/WOAH and other partners, exchange between regions/countries; aapplication of science-based - accepted and feasible control measures, improve access to knowledge	GCS12 - 11, 14, 16, 17, 28
FAO Progressive Management Pathway for biosecurity* (PMP-B)	FAO has developed a Progressive Management Pathway for Biosecurity (PMP-TAB) to support countries in progressively improving capacities for biosecurity in production systems and value chains. The PMP-TAB is a collaborative, stepwise approach to assessing and managing biological risks to animal production and health, supported by the provision of appropriate tools, with shared public-private responsibilities. The PMP-TBB result in reduced burden of disease and AMR, reduced transboundary spread of diseases, improved socio-economic benefits in the livestock sector, and enhanced One Health outcomes.	COAG Livestock Subcommittee
Increase use of tools	Encourage countries to use available tools such as: WOAH PVS, FAO PPEP, FAO LMT and SET; ensure countries request initial evaluation or WOAH PVS follow up missions.	Third evaluation of GF-TADs (2018)

Some of these recommendations are being progressively addressed (see Annex I follow of GSC recommendations) and are reflected in the action plan proposed by respective disease working groups/secretariats. To develop more holistic activities with more general benefits than purely TADs specific, supported by the management committee, the Global Secretariat promoted a cross-cutting approach involving different departments within their respective organisations in view to develop and submit proposals for securing grants that funds coordination activities. Results pending at the time of writing this report. Depending on funds available, workplans will be developed for the rest of 2024 and 2025.

Output 2.3: Provide harmonized mechanisms/tools to monitor the control of priority TADs.

The indicator related to this output provides an overview of KPI reporting mechanism, to report progress of the disease-specific strategies, regional action plans/strategies and, combined indicators resulting from capacity assessment tools. The digitalisation and sharing of information related to capacity assessment tools (output 2.1) will also contribute to make progress on this output. Regarding the TADs-specific strategies at global and regional level, the situation is as follows:

- **ASF:** for the ASF global initiative, a set of indicators has been developed based on the available logic framework (see ASF Global Initiative section). However, challenges exist with data collection that could benefit from the process of digitalisation of the information.
- **FMD and PPR:** FMD and PPR strategies are equipped by specific tools measuring progress from Members (PCP-FMD and the PPR-PMAT). The FMD working groups and PPR Secretariat consider the development of Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks with indicators that capture other aspects of their respective strategies according to the result frameworks as these strategies are revised. In that context, indicators have been developed for the revised PPR Blueprint and Pan African PPR Strategy to be operationalized.
- **HPAI**: the need for indicators for the HPAI control strategy has been considered in development of the strategy.
- **Rinderpest:** there is not yet any specific set of indicators for Rinderpest post eradication campaign.

Regional level: there are indicators defined and measures in Southeast Asia, in the context of the SEAC FMD, for FMD and ASF. Regional strategies and regional action plans have considered the need for indicators, some having been defined but collection of data and actual monitoring remains pending.

Objective 3. Improve sustainability of strategies to control priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships.

Developing KPIs to enhance the sustainability of strategies aimed at controlling priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships is paramount for assessing the effectiveness and impact of collaborative efforts. These indicators should encompass close collaboration and partnerships among diverse stakeholders, including public veterinary services, private sector, international organizations, farmers associations, local communities, NGOs and others. The first step taken to deliver on this objective was establishing the partnership and financing panel (PFP) of the GF-TADs with the aim of providing strategic guidance to the GF-TADs governing bodies through strengthening partnerships particularly at global and regional levels. The current 13 members of the panel represent a wide range of stakeholders from various disciplines such as private sector, NGOs, academia and research centres, resource partners, veterinary associations, global and regional livestock and diseases initiatives and forums, etc. In addition, to cover the multi-disciplinarity aspect, the global secretariat suggests the following disciplines to be included when considering establishing new partnerships or to strengthening the current ones: epidemiology, immunology, surveillance and diagnostics, biodiversity, wildlife, environment and ecosystems, economics, social sciences, behaviour sciences, quantitative sciences including modelling, qualitative sciences including participatory approaches, and possibly other relevant disciplines.

Output 3.1: Strengthen engagement and coordination with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector

To measure the progress on this output, the global secretariat proposes three indicators: i) to provide a list of active agreements between FAO and WOAH at global and regional levels with relevant organizations and to describe the conducted and/or ongoing collaborations on TADs-related activities including but not limited to prevention, surveillance, detection and control; ii) to review the activities jointly undertaken by FAO or WOAH addressing objectives of the GF-TADs strategies and its stakeholders through the established/strengthened partnerships (e.g. meetings, field visits, trainings, workshops etc), iii) working with PFP, to map stakeholders, resources, and partners relevant to both TADs-specific and regional-specific strategies. Data gathering and analysis for these three indicators is ongoing.

On the stakeholder and resource mapping a case study has been conducted under the workstream 1 of the PFP. The focus of this case study was on enhancing livestock development and health under the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS). Data collected from the project reports as well we through conducting semi-structured interviews aiming at: a) stakeholder Identification to identify of key stakeholders, including project managers, beneficiaries, local authorities, and community representatives. Interview questions developed that include open-ended questions addressing project impact, challenges, sustainability, and financial aspects. Interviews conducted either in person, via telecommunication, or virtual platforms. Results and report of this study is currently being finalized. Figure 22 illustrates the main lessons learnt through conducting this study focusing on stakeholders and resource mapping study.

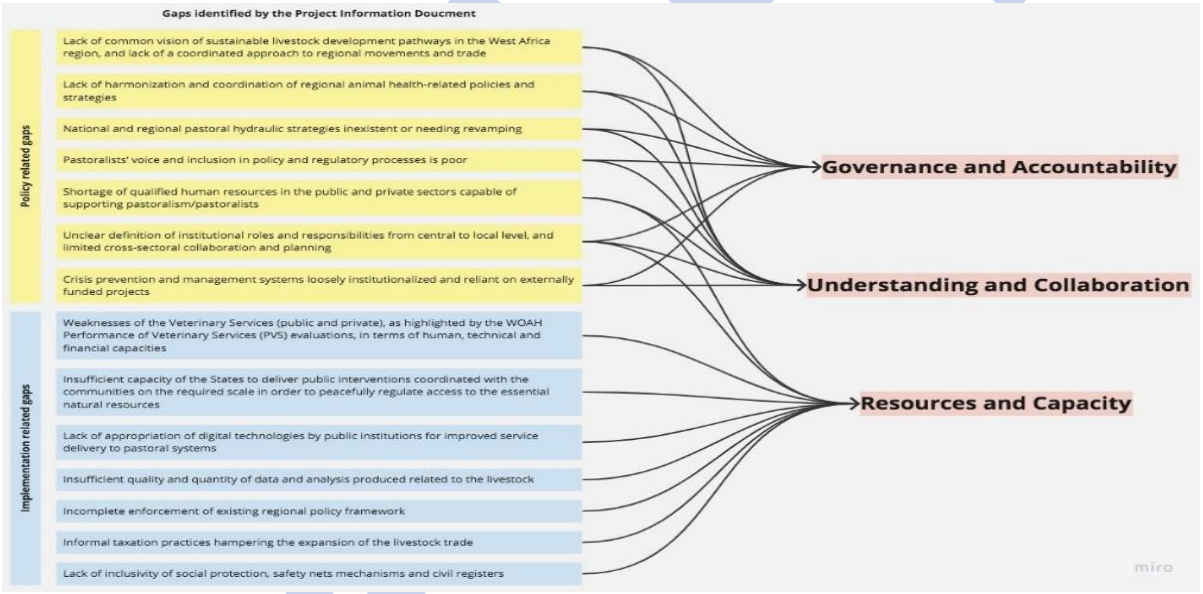

Figure 22: Main lessons learnt through conducting PRAPS case study focusing on stakeholders and resource mapping study (being finalized)

Output 3.2: Improve advocacy skills for TADs control

To measure the progress on this output, the global secretariat proposes two indicators: i) listing/counting the number of evidence-based advocacy materials (e.g., socioeconomic analyses, economic appraisals such as benefit-cost analysis of control programmes, relevant guidelines, training courses and/or organized workshops and events, etc.) developed and publicly available; and ii) a description of application of these materials and their proven or expected impacts.

Data gathering and analysis for these two indicators has been planned to be done in 2024/25 by the global secretariat. An example of the developed material to be used for the advocacy purpose, is a recently finalized practical guide (currently under review and publication process) that has been developed by FAO to help stakeholders responsible for the health of livestock in both the public and private sectors collect the evidence

needed for rational disease control decisions and policy formulation. The purpose of the guide is to provide readers with a basic knowledge of the economic analyses and approaches needed to understand livestock disease impact and assess the justification for different control policies, using FMD as an example. Other initiatives that are focused on measuring the impact of animal diseases, such as the Global Burden for Animal Disease (GBADs) and other multi-stakeholder projects will be considered as a source of information for this output.

In addition, under the PFP workstream 2 presented above, a compilation of studies and policy papers exploring the links between animal health activities and broader challenges and benefits beyond the sole improvement of animal health situation is being resumed after a pause due to human resource availability. The purpose is to provide key messages for veterinary services that could be used for communication purpose to decision makers indicating broader implications of animal health.

Output 3.3: Promote sustainable funding mechanisms

To measure the progress on this output, the global secretariat proposes two indicators that are i) listing and describing the resource mobilization initiatives and activities conducted across the GF-TADs disease working group/secretariats and regions as well as their status, proven and expected impacts and their sustainability; ii) describing the progress with the objectives of the workstream 3 of the PFP that are: a) development of a rationale and methodology to map livestock stakeholders and funding sources (together with funding working group) globally and regionally; b) mapping of potential funding sources and their conditions for funding, followed by outline of funding strategies; c) providing guidance on funding strategies for GF-TADs and specific disease programs.

Supported by the global secretariat, the PFP under its workstream 3 plan, has started reviewing available information and data on resource mobilization related to livestock health and TADs control in particular.

The primary goal of this output is looking at promoting sustainable funding mechanisms for Members, however as a first step, the resource mobilization for livestock health that are channeled through FAO and WOAH are under review. Resource mobilization cycle has been conceptualized by FAO in 2012 that is summarized in Figure 23.

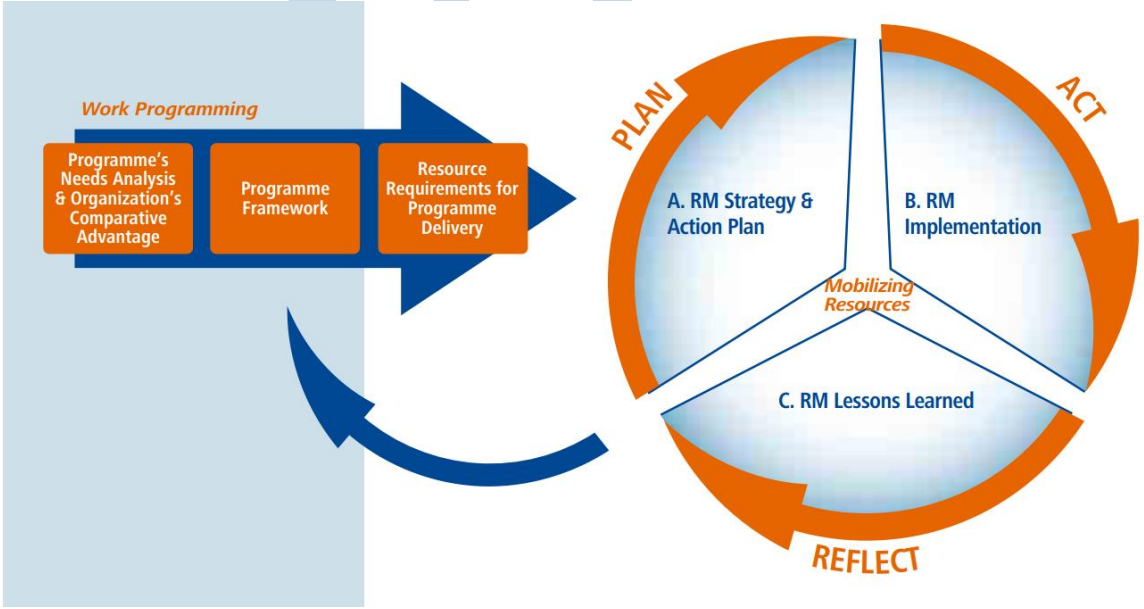

Figure 23: Resource mobilization cycle, quoted from FAO, 2012.

FOA and WOAH resource partners in 2023 are being listed/reviewed at time of writing this report. For FAO, resource partners are publicly available on FAO's website via the link that follows: https://www.fao.org/partnerships/resource-partners/monthly-funding/en/ (see Fig 24 below).

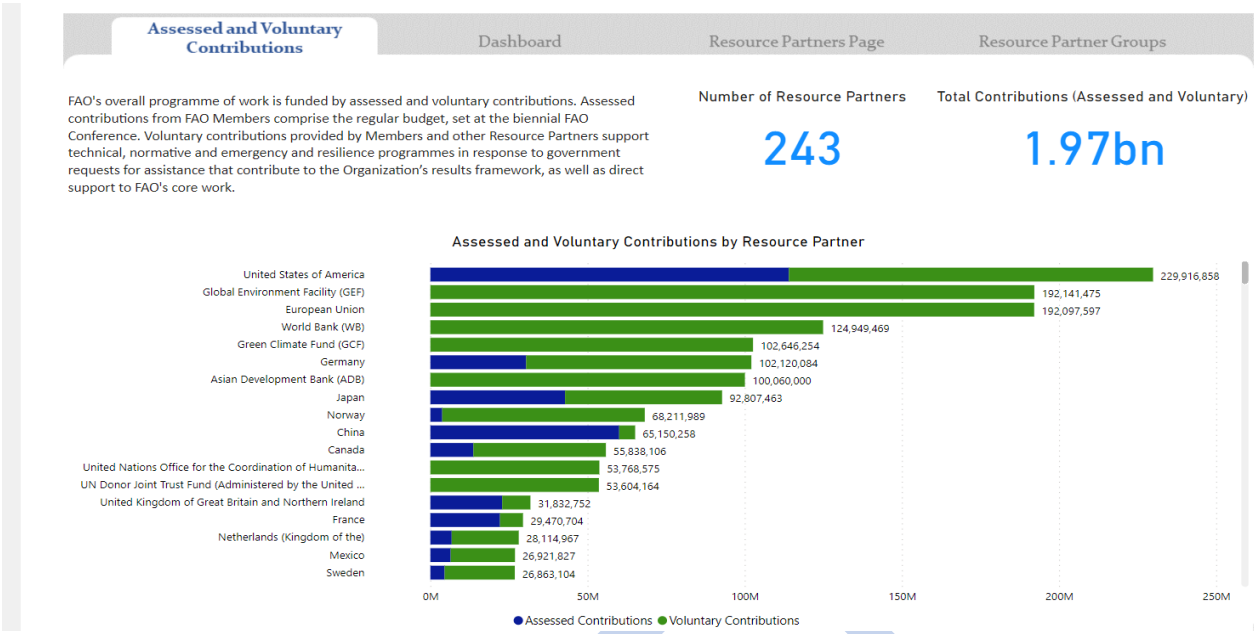

Figure 24: FAO's resource mobilization platform that lists FAO's resource partners and their contributions in 2023 (source: FAO website)

Figure 25 and Figure 26 below present geographical and project type (development versus emergency) of FAO's livestock-focused projects between 2020-2022.

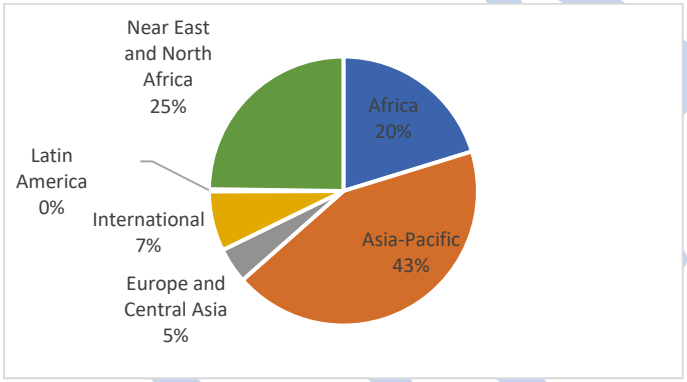

Figure 25. Geographical proportion of FAO's livestock-focused projects reviewed between 2020-2022.

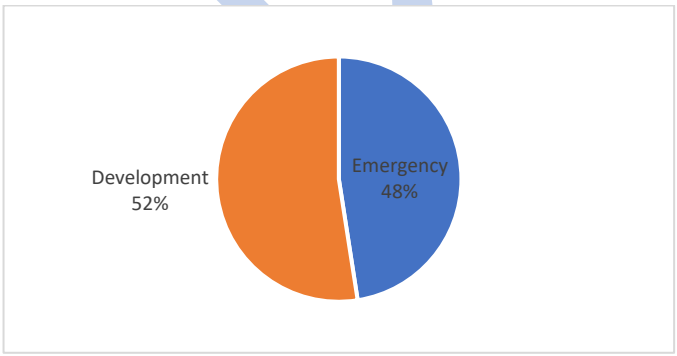

Figure 26. Type (development and emergency) proportion of FAO's livestock-focused projects reviewed between 2020-2022.

Identified categories and focus of the projects as well as the proportion of each project category funded through FAO were as follows: 1. Livestock Support and Management (34%); 2. Food Security and Nutrition (18%); 3.

Livestock Policies and Sustainability (13%); 4. Emergency Responses (12%); 5. Global and Regional Initiatives (10%); 6. Agriculture and Livestock Productivity (6%); 7. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (4%); 8. Specific Country Initiatives (3%). WOAH's resource mobilisation is principally managed through "The World Fund" that is a dynamic portfolio of relationships with resource partners for voluntary contributions. During the last steering committee of the World Fund, held on May 2023, the GF-TADs accounted for 14% of expenses out of 23,7M € for the period 2022, in addition to which capacity building and other global frameworks constitute a pool of complementary activities to strengthen the capacity of Members to address TADs related issues (Figure 27).

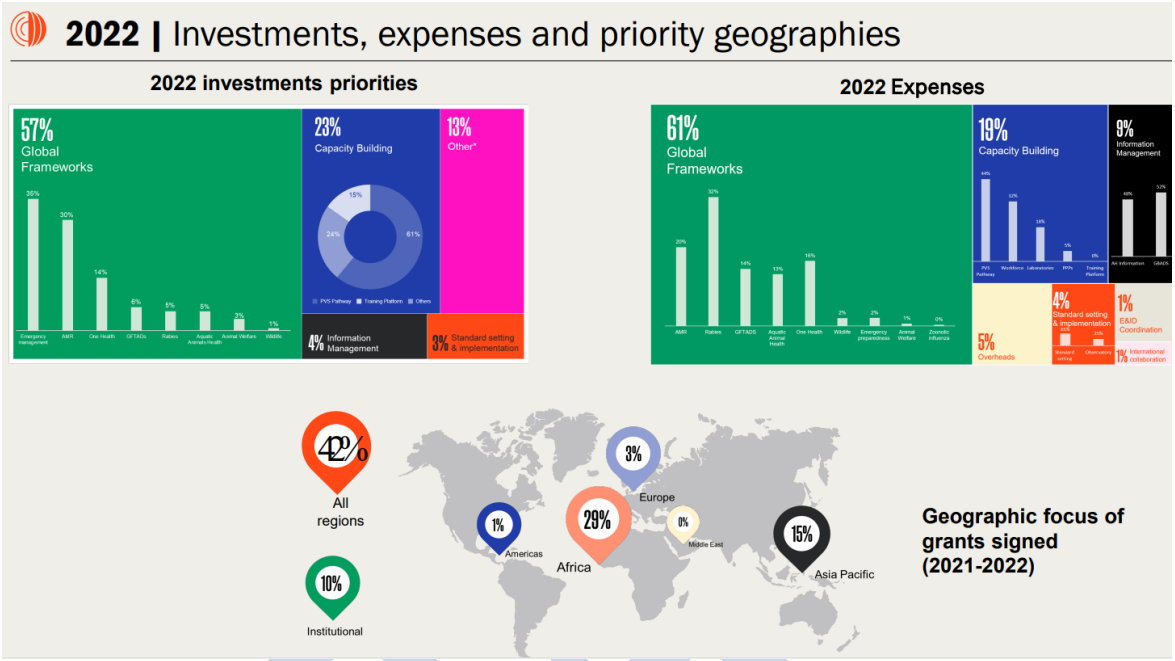

Figure 27: Investments and expenses prioritiy geographies for WOAH World Fund (2022)

Working on the progress on this output and gathering data under PFP workstream 3 is ongoing.

GF-TADs Initiative for the global control of African swine fever (ASF), 2021–2025

Brief description of the Initiative

Following an appeal made at the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), WOAH and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed an Initiative for the global control of African swine fever (ASF) under the umbrella of the GF-TADs. This Global Initiative (GI), officially launched in January 2020 during the 85th International Green Week in Berlin, was publicly released in July 2020. The Initiative and the associated two-year action plan are published in the ASF section of the GF-TADs website, where information is regularly added and updated.

The goal of the Global Initiative is to achieve global control of ASF, which is defined as a combination of the following criteria:

- No new countries affected by ASF.
- Decline in the number of countries affected by ASF.
- Decline in the number of ASF outbreaks.
- Reduced losses due to ASF.

Three objectives are defined as preconditions for achieving global control of ASF:

- Improve countries' capabilities to control (i.e. prevent, respond to and eradicate) ASF using WOAH standards and best practices that are based on the latest science.
- Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF.
- Facilitate business continuity.

These objectives form the framework under which the outcomes and outputs are defined, and the Operational Plan of activities is established.

The ASF Working Group

In July 2020, the GF-TADs ASF Working Group was formed to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the Global Initiative, and to develop and support ASF control strategies at global and regional levels. The Working Group is composed of three members of the FAO and three members of WOAH, from the headquarters and regional offices of the two organisations, with a rotating chairmanship on an annual basis:

- WOAH: Gregorio Torres (co-chair), Viola Chemis, Charmaine Chng
- FAO: Andriy Rozstalnyy (co-chair), Akiko Kamata, Yooni Oh

The Working Group is supported by the GF-TADs Global Secretariat and reports to the GF-TADs Management Committee. Strategic decisions are made in consultation with and under guidance from the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee. The progress of the Global Initiative will be monitored through a dedicated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework that is currently being developed with the support of M&E experts, assisted by an IT tool. The experience gained from the development of an M&E framework for the ASF GI could be applied to the development of corresponding M&E frameworks for other global disease strategies under the GF-TADs. The ASF Working Group meets on a monthly basis and continues to support the implementation of ASF activities at the global and regional levels, including contributing to the work of the GF-TADs regional steering committees and the regional Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on ASF.

Epidemiological situation update

African swine fever is present and continues to spread in Africa, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific. In 2023 alone, six countries reported the first occurrence of ASF: Singapore, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Sweden, and Bangladesh. In September 2023, ASF genotype II was reported to have occurred in Sardinia where the historically circulating serotype was genotype I. Anthropogenic activities and the lack of biosecurity along the value chain in

many countries play major roles in the progressive spread of the disease. Movements of infected animals due to trade, sale of infected meat, swill feeding, and free-range pig-raising are some of the main risk factors in this system. Figure 28 represents ASF events in domestic pigs and wild boar from 01 January 2023 to 11 April 2024.

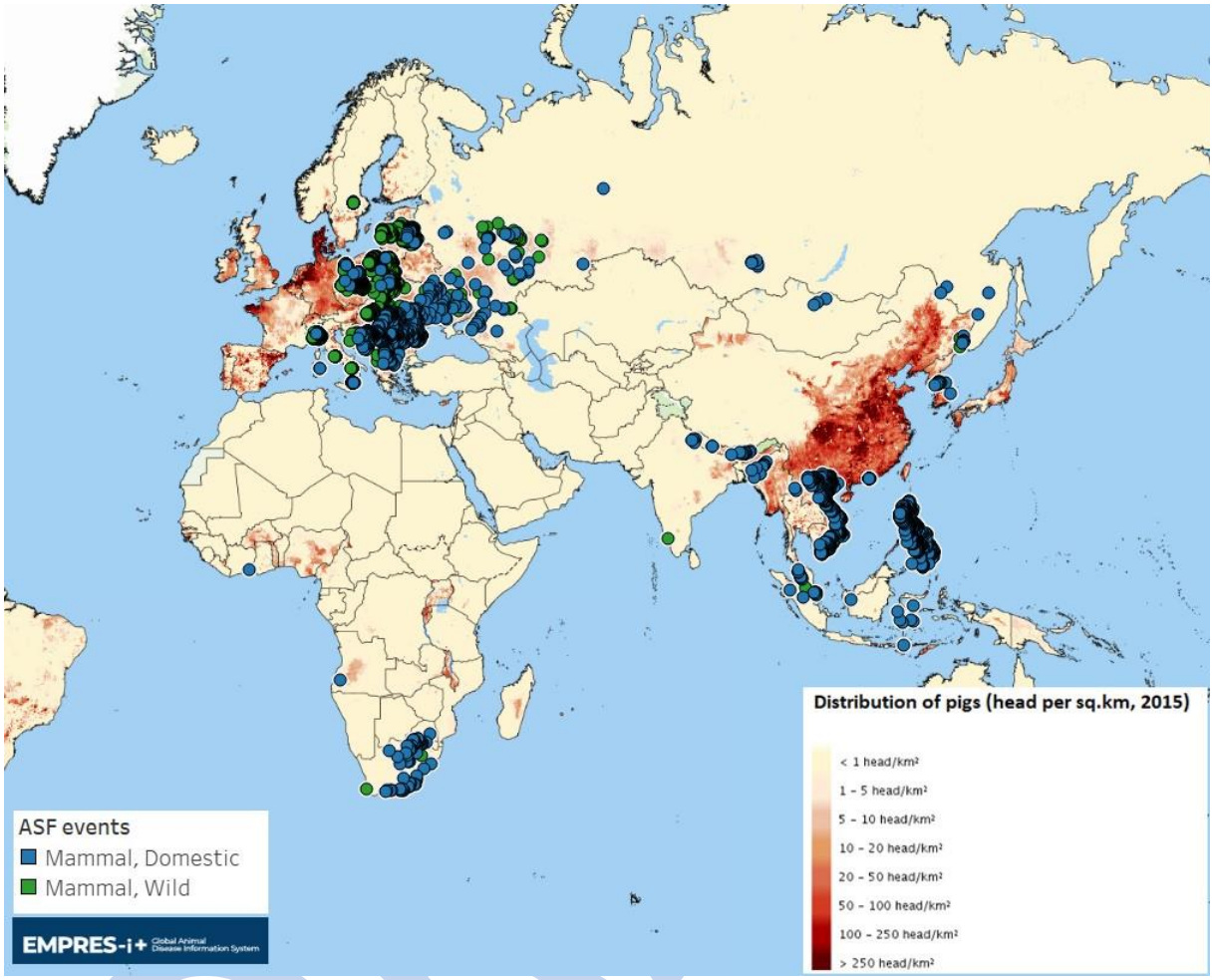

Figure 28. African swine fever events in domestic pigs and wild boar from 01 January 2023 to 11 April 2024.

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. In: *United Nations*. New York. [Cited 21 September 2023]. https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF. Modified with GLW 4 data and Emergency Prevention System Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i) data, WOAH and National Authorities 2023–2024.

Apart from 25 genotypes of ASF viruses (ASFV) present in Africa, the current epidemiological situation in Europe, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean is caused by genotype II. Recombinant strains of genotype I/II have also purportedly been reported in Asia. This situation requires enhanced surveillance to detect existing circulating strains, recombinant strains, including low virulence strains that are reported to be circulating in Asia.

Progress and challenges in the last year

The ASF Global Initiative identifies support mechanisms to improve the capability of countries to control ASF, improve the coordination and cooperation of key stakeholders from the private and public sectors, and minimise the consequences of ASF through business continuity.

A key announcement in 2023 was the development of modified live vaccines for ASF genotype II, either being authorised or trialled in some countries. Many countries are interested in using these candidate vaccines to help control ongoing outbreaks of ASF in their territories. Both organisations caution against the use of poor quality

or non-compliant vaccines which may not protect against ASF, or worse, lead to the spread of vaccine viruses or recombinant strains that could evade detection and cause persistent infections.

In addition, one of the key factors for sustainable control of ASF is the creation of an intelligence framework to share disease information effectively. The Standing Group of Experts on ASF (SGE-ASF) continue to be a relevant regional network to gather decision makers and experts able to coordinate regional efforts, share best practices, promote inter-sectoral cooperation, and thereby address the disease in a collaborative, transparent and harmonised way.

In July 2023, the eighth SGE-ASF meeting for the Asia-Pacific region was organised in-person in Qingdao, China (PRC), and was focused on biosecurity. In Europe, the 21st SGE-ASF meeting was organised in Brussels, Belgium, in September 2023, and focused on wild boar carcass detection and disposal.

In Africa, where the ASF as only been active for GF-TADs since 2022, the third meeting of the *standing group of experts* (SGE) for ASF was held via hybrid mode from 1 – 3 August 2023 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The meeting was attended by all member countries (Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo and Uganda) as well as invited observer country, Mali. Also present were the African Union's *Pan-African Veterinary Vaccines Centre,* the IGAD *Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development* (ICPALD, online), FAO and WOAH Regional Representations, the *International Livestock Research Institute,* as well as two selected national laboratories : the *National Veterinary Research Institute* (NVRI), Vom, Nigeria and the *Laboratoire National de l'Elevage et de Recherches Veterinaires* (LNERV), Dakar-Hann, Senegal. In addition, the meeting was attended by observers from the Europe GF-TADs (European Commission in Brussels). Overall the meeting was attended by 50 participants, 10 of whom attended online or sent in pre-recorded presentations, due to the time-zone differences. More information : Third ASF standing group of experts meeting tackles biosecurity and surveillance. The focus of the next meeting will be 'disease control', including, as agreed by the third meeting, « vaccination ». The report of the third meeting is available here.

To facilitate cooperation and dialogue across the SGE-ASF, the Global Coordination Committee for ASF was launched at the margins of the 90th General Session, bringing together Chairs of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees and members of SGE-ASF where collectively, priority areas in-common were identified to guide future activities. Priority areas identified include developments in ASF vaccination, strengthening biosecurity and looking at the impact of wild pigs in ASF epidemiology. In December 2023, the Global consultation on ASF was organised in Rome, Italy by FAO in collaboration with WOAH, to bring together experts, policymakers risk managers, and other stakeholders to discuss the latest science and knowledge on ASF, share lessons learned from different regions and production systems, and discuss latest developments in tools for decision support and control.

Going forward, the ASF Working Group has identified priority areas that will lead the work for 2024 and aims to continue advancing on priorities from 2023. Specific activities include providing countries with standards and guidance on ASF vaccination, strengthening biosecurity and managing transmission between domestic and wild animal populations. FAO and WOAH conducted activities on their own contributing to the ASF GI, ensuring coordination between the two organisation thanks to the ASF WG.

Highlight on WOAH activities contributing to ASF GI

- Strengthening laboratory diagnostics for ASF

WOAH Headquarters continues to work closely with its network of seven ASF Reference Laboratories to harmonise, standardise, validate, and make available ASF diagnostic assays; to provide expertise and training for WOAH and its Members in relation to ASF diagnosis, surveillance, and control; and to collect, analyse, and disseminate epidemiological information on the global occurrence of ASF and the genetic characterisation of ASF virus. During the reporting period, three meetings were held to exchange scientific and technical expertise on ASF vaccine development, diagnosis, and control measures. In addition, the Network has been exploring ways to establish an open access information sharing platform for ASF virus genome sequence data, as well as developing training programmes to assist countries at risk and providing proficiency testing participation for a number of

countries. The Network will also release a laboratory algorithm manual to address the detection of virulent and variant forms of ASFV.

In the Americas region, WOAH organised the first interlaboratory comparison trial on ASF and CSF diagnostic techniques in collaboration with the European Union Reference Laboratory for African swine fever (EURL-ASF), Animal Health Research Centre (INIA-CISA/CSIC) and the WOAH CSF Reference Laboratory, in the Animal Health Research Centre, Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA-CReSA). The objective of this ILCT to know the diagnostic capabilities of the National Reference Laboratories of countries in the Americas, with the aim of harmonising and strengthening the diagnosis of ASF and CSF in the region. At the end of August 2023, WOAH funded a bench-top training of selected national laboratory staff on advanced diagnosis and sequencing of ASFV at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute in Pretoria, a WOAH Reference Laboratory for ASF.

- ASF notification and situation reports

WOAH monitors notifications of the occurrence of ASF through WAHIS and generates reports providing an update of the ASF situation at both global and regional levels. Situation reports for ASF are published every two weeks and are available online. The reports cover the updates on ASF occurrences in the preceding two weeks, other significant updates, and key recommendations to Members.

- Standards on safe and efficacious ASF vaccines

To provide vaccine manufacturers and regulatory authorities with the minimum standards that the vaccines would have to comply with, in September 2023, draft standards on the manufacture of safe and efficacious vaccines for ASF were circulated by the Biological Standards Commission for Members. The standards were drafted through a consultancy project under a Cooperative Agreement between WOAH and the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-ARS), after a series of surveys, in-person exchanges with subject matter experts, five technical workshops, including one with key vaccine regulatory bodies. The WOAH Reference Laboratory network was also extensively consulted.

- Technical support for the implementation of the regional and national strategies for the prevention and control of ASF

WOAH PVS Evaluation with African Swine Fever Specific Content methodology, which was developed by an *ad hoc* Group in September 2022 was piloted in May 2023.

Highlight on FAO activities contributing to ASF GI

FAO HQ and Regional Offices and WOAH Regional and Sub-Regional Representations co-organised or participated in several national and regional ASF meetings and workshops and projects in 2023, including the following:

- The revision of the Regional ASF Control Strategy is finalized and hand overed to AU-IBAR
- National risk-based control strategies for three countries in eastern Africa are developed.
- GARA Gap analysis workshop in Uganda in February 2023 to discuss gaps in knowledge of ASF and identify projects and outcomes in the control of ASF in Africa, and subsequent meeting in November 2023 of the GARA Africa Chapter workshop/ General Assembly
- ASF Workshop in the Philippines for ASEAN in May 2023 to finalize the ASEAN ASF Prevention and Control Strategy, which was endorsed by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group for Livestock
- Consultancy project for a risk based ASF Control Strategy, piloted in one country in Southeast Asia
- Global ASF Research Alliance (GARA) Gap Analysis workshop in the Philippines in December 2023, identifying critical knowledge and research gaps related to ASF which are specific to Asia.
- Caribbean Agriculture Week with a focus on ASF in October 2023, with a commitment to prioritize ASF prevention and control, and strengthen surveillance for ASF in the Caribbean countries.
- SGE-ASF expert mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in response to detection of ASF
- Launched a new virtual training course through VLC on ASF prevention, detection and control in resource-limited settings for east Africa.

- Regional Simulation Exercise (SimEx) on African Swine Fever (ASF) Outbreak Investigation in Thailand in August 2023, to strengthen capacities of the national veterinary authorities to respond to ASF outbreak situations with simulated conditions.
- Launched a new virtual course on ASF management in smallholder settings in September 2023 (https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/mod/page/view.php?id=13158), the course was tailored to fit for the Asia-Pacific region.
- Annual round for the swine disease proficiency testing programme for 2022 to 2023, in collaboration with the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness was conducted by RAP. The proficiency testing programme for swine diseases was designed to assess the detection of swine diseases using PCR. For ASF testing, 24 out of 26 laboratories reported results which aligned correctly. Two laboratories reported a negative sample as indeterminate.
- To support smallholders in improving their community resilience to ASF, the Community ASF Biosecurity Interventions (CABI) was previously piloted in a community in the Philippines to protect against the spread of ASF through strengthening smallholder swine production biosecurity using a participatory approach in 2022. For 2023, CABI has further expanded in five countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia Lao PDR, Philippines, and Thailand. In 2023, main work was to update and polish the protocol by gathering all participating countries and target areas were selected.
- Multiple capacity development programme at the national and subnational levels to strengthen capacities of animal health officials.
- Global consultation on ASF control at FAO HQ 12-14 December 2023. The meeting brought together experts, policy makers, risk managers, and other stakeholders to discuss the latest science and knowledge on ASF, lessons learned from ASF control in different regions and production systems and provide recommendations to enhance the control of ASF. The conclusions and recommendations of the meetings provide scientific background for update of policy and decision-making for ASF control.

Publications

- FAO 2023. African swine fever prevention, detection, and control in resource-limited settings. FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines No. 35. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7491en

- African swine fever field manual: Steps in swine handling and sample collection for African swine fever outbreak investigation. 2023. (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6300en)

Funding for ASF

- The Global Initiative lists the various activities that are underway or are being planned under each objective of the Global Initiative in the Operational Plan available online in the GF-TADs website. The Operational Plan shows allocated funds and funding sources for each activity and funding gaps in view of efficient coordination. Activities that have identified donors are shown. Although the activities are coordinated under the Global Initiative, the management of the activities and the funds is under the responsibility of the relevant FAO or WOAH headquarters or regional offices.
- The following is a summary table of the funding available for activities related to ASF. It covers the past two years and the coming years.

Table 6. Funding to support activities related to ASF, by donor, amount, region and status or period of ending if any specified.

Source: GF-TADs ASF Working Group.

Organisation	Donor	Amount	Beneficiary Region	Status/Period
WOAH	Canada (CFIA-AAFC)	CAD 672,000	Americas	2023
	China (People's Republic of)	EUR 950,000	Asia Pacific; Global	open
	Japan-Trust Fund	EUR 150,000	Asia Pacific	Jun 2021
	Korea (Rep. of)	EUR 40,000	Asia Pacific	open
	EU-DG SANTE	EUR 160,000	Europe/Africa/ America	Dec 2021
	OIRSA	EUR 50,759	Americas	2022
	USA-DTRA	US$ 355,000	Global; Southeast Asia; Africa	Oct 2022
FAO	Italy	EUR 150,000	Global	Jul 2024
	DoD DTRA (USA)	US$ 371,800	Global	
		US$ 1,432,461	Southeast Asia	
	Korea (Republic of)	US$ 803,500	East Asia	21 Dec 24
	Korea (Republic of)	US$ 3,763,147	Southeast Asia	21 Dec 24
	USA BHA	US$ 1,600,000	Southeast Asia	31 Aug 2024
	FAO	US$ 500,000	Balkans	30 Nov 21
	FAO	US$ 500,000	Pacific Islands	21 Jan 23

Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control Strategy

The GF-TADs FMD Working Group

The GF-TADs Foot and Mouth Disease Working Group (FMD-WG) is composed of three members from FAO, three members from WOAH and a representative from the European Commission for the Control of FMD (EuFMD). The FMD-WG activities are facilitated by a Support Unit, composed of 2 persons currently supported by EuFMD.

The members of the FMD-WG in 2023-2024 are:

- FAO: Melissa McLaws (co-chair), Madhur Dhingra and Muhammad Javed Arshed
- WOAH: Néo Mapitse (co-chair), Bolortuya Purevsuren and Mohamed Sirdar
- EuFMD: Fabrizio Rosso

Summary of the Strategy

The Global FMD Control Strategy, developed under the FAO WOAH GF-TADs, was endorsed in 2012 for a 15-year period. The overall objectives of the Strategy are to alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods in developing countries, and to further protect the global and regional trade in animals and animal products. The specific objective is to improve FMD control in endemic regions, thereby protecting the advanced animal disease control status in other regions of the world.

Under the Strategy, countries work to reduce the burden and impact of FMD by building adequate laboratory and surveillance systems, strengthening veterinary service capacities, supporting quality-controlled vaccination programmes and creating possibilities to control other priority animal diseases through practical and cost-effective combinations of activities. The Strategy includes three components: (i) improving global FMD control, (ii) strengthening Veterinary Services and (iii) improving the prevention and control of other major diseases affecting livestock. Concerning the first component, 80 countries are engaged in implementing the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) with the goal of reducing or eliminating FMD virus circulation by 2027. Other regions not overseen by the FMD Working Group are engaged in other regional initiatives, e.g. South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) and the South American Commission for the Fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA).

The Global FMD Control Strategy emphasises a regional approach to exchanging information and experiences, to coordinating efforts and to developing regional roadmaps showing a country's ambitions and allowing regular progress assessment.

Epidemiological situation in the past two years

Foot and mouth disease continues to be widespread in many parts of the world. Globally, seven regional virus pools have been identified. Within these pools, similar viruses circulate and evolve. Countries within a pool will therefore have similar requirements for selecting appropriate vaccines. Periodically, viruses spread between pools and to new regions.

Pool 1 (East Asia): Serotypes O and A are endemic in Southeast Asia, with the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage dominant. The lineage has spread outside the core countries in Pool 1 to countries including Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation to the north, Indonesia (incursion in May 2022 and is now considered endemic after more than 30 years free of FMD) and Republic of Korea in May 2023 (reported for the first time since 2019). Serotype Asia-1 has rarely been detected since 1998, except for outbreaks in VietnNam (2006) and Myanmar (2017).

Pool 2 (South Asia): Serotypes O, A and Asia-1 are circulating in South Asia, where the dominant lineage continues to be O/ME-SA/Ind2001. More cases of serotype A were detected in India in 2023 compared to previous years, and serotype Asia-1 VIII was also detected for the first time since 2018.

Pool 3 (West Eurasia): The incursion of serotype SAT2 in five Pool 3 countries was a major epidemiological event in 2023. It was the first time SAT2 had been detected in most countries in the region, and therefore most livestock

had no immunity due to either prior infection or vaccination. Serotypes O, A and Asia-1 are endemic in West Eurasia. The predominant strains are A/ASIA/Iran-05 and O ME-SA PanAsia-2.

Pool 4 (East Africa and North Africa): Serotypes O, A, SAT1, SAT2 and SAT3 circulate in East Africa, with O/EA the predominant lineage. The AgResults FMD Vaccine Challenge project is ongoing to motivate vaccine producers to supply good-quality FMD vaccines for the East African market (see https://agresults.org/projects/fmd-vaccine). In North Africa, whilst no outbreaks were reported in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco between 1999 and 2013, FMD has been detected several times in the last nine years, possibly related to increased trans-Saharan connectivity with the construction of new roads. Most recently, O/EA3 has been detected in Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. Two FMD outbreaks (untyped) were notified by Algeria in December 2023. In January 2024, laboratory results revealed that these were caused by serotype SAT2, which is exotic to North Africa (see Alert). Additionally, in 2022, reports were published of FMD cases in Egypt caused by South American lineages (O/EURO-SA and A/EURO-SA). These unexpected incursions represent the introduction of completely new viral lineages and raise questions regarding the route(s) of introduction, as well as the potential for these lineages to become established and spread in the region.

Pool 5 (West Africa): Serotypes O, A, SAT1 and SAT2 circulate in this region, with serotype O believed to be predominant. FMD surveillance remains limited in this Pool, resulting in important knowledge gaps concerning circulating virus strains. Novel approaches such as using nucleic acid recovery from lateral-flow devices as well as RNA transfection methods to characterise the FMD viruses are available to fill gaps in surveillance, however, remain to be widely adopted.

Pool 6 (Southern Africa): Serotypes SAT1, SAT2 and SAT3 usually circulate in this region. However, since 2018, Serotype O/EA-2 has been increasingly detected, beginning in Zambia in 2018, with further detections in Namibia (2021), Malawi and Mozambique (2022). These are the first detections of serotype O in the region in approximately 20 years and warrants serious consideration as the livestock in these countries are largely naïve to the serotype and therefore the vaccine composition may need to be adapted. In South Africa, there have been outbreaks of SAT2 in KwaZulu-Natal and Free State which started in 2021 with the most recent case detected on 6 October 2023 (at time of writing). There have also been SAT3 outbreaks in Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North-West Provinces, although no new cases have been detected in 2023. Finally, Botswana reported an outbreak of SAT2 in an FMD-free zone in August 2022, and the zone was reinstated free in March 2023 after the establishment of a containment zone.

Pool 7 (South America): Except for Venezuela, there have been no suspected cases of FMD in South America during 2020–2023.

For further details, see:

1. WAHIS Reports
2. Quarterly FMD reports jointly published by the World Reference Laboratory for FMD (WRLFMD) and EuFMD
3. country reports (Detection and Serotyping, Genotyping and Vaccine matching reports) produced the WRLFMD

Progress and challenges in the last year

Achievements

- Global coordination

There have been three meetings of the Global Coordination Committee on FMD (GCC-FMD) since it was initiated under the umbrella of the GF-TADs in September 2021. The Global Coordination Committee on FMD is composed of representatives of global and regional organisations, institutions, technical entities, development partners and other relevant stakeholders involved in implementing FMD control initiatives. Key objectives are to exchange experiences, facilitate coordination, align the regional FMD control initiatives and develop a harmonised five-year global FMD action plan (Table 7).

Table 7. Proposed Action Plan of the GCC-FMD (source: author's own elaboration)

	Block	Objective
Strategic	1. Strengthening of regional governance mechanisms	Enable coordination of the regional FMD control strategy, including the public and private sectors.
	2. Promotion of the creation of a network of public-private associations	Establish strategic PPPs that support the different components of an FMD control programme.
	3. Ensure effective advocacy for FMD control	Advocacy at national and regional levels ensures political commitment and the provision of resources for FMD control. There is a unified inter-institutional message on the importance of FMD control, including resource partners.
Technical	4. Facilitate knowledge and access to laboratory diagnostic tools	Identify gaps in access to diagnostic tools and strengthen their use.
	5. Facilitate knowledge and access to epidemiological tools	Identify gaps in knowledge and access to epidemiological tools and strengthen their use.
	6. Promote the use of quality vaccines and adequate vaccination strategies	Promote the mechanisms to achieve adequate selection and approval of the vaccines and the design and implementation of robust vaccination plans.

- Strategy review

An external review of the implementation of the Strategy concluded in 2023 found that although progress had been made by the over 80 Members engaged in the PCP-FMD, the level of progress varied according to the Region. Common gaps and challenges that were identified included insufficient levels of resources and surveillance capacity, poor vaccination coverage, inadequate livestock movement controls and insufficient awareness of the negative socioeconomic impacts of FMD and the benefits of control. Resource mobilisation is very weak and hinders progress, particularly in the resource-poor Members. The conclusions and recommendations corroborate the findings from the various coordination meetings on the disease. FMD WG`s strategy and in collaboration with resource partners, is to prioritise the recommendations based on feasibility and expected impact of the actions to meet the objectives of the Global FMD Control Strategy by 2027.

- Progression along the PCP-FMD and Official FMD recognition procedures

The PCP-FMD stages of countries at the end of 2023 are shown in Figure 29 below. In 2023, one Member country advanced to Stage 1, and one to Stage 2. The countries' progression along the PCP-FMD stages is determined through the assessments of the outcomes of the country reports, interviews, questionnaires, and the outputs from the PCP-FMD self-assessment tool. The PCP-FMD SAT (SATv2, updated version) is very useful for a continuous self-evaluation and prioritisation of the areas for improvement. Regarding official status recognition procedures, WOAH continued to provide training, standards, and guidelines to Members regarding the requirements for official recognition and in 2023, the Republic of Korea; one zone of Bolivia and one new zone of Colombia and one new zone of Russian Federation were added to the list of countries or zones free from FMD. No official FMD control programme was endorsed in 2023. The countries or zones official FMD status as of January 2024 is shown in Figure 30 below. A containment zone established in Botswana following the control of FMD outbreak has been recognised in 2023 thereby allowing for the reinstatement of part of the former free zone. Further details about these countries and zones are publicly available on the WOAH FMD official status. In 2024, mechanisms have been put in place for the Members countries whose status is suspended, or control programmes withdrawn, to receive more support and guidance from the WOAH/FAO FMD working group.

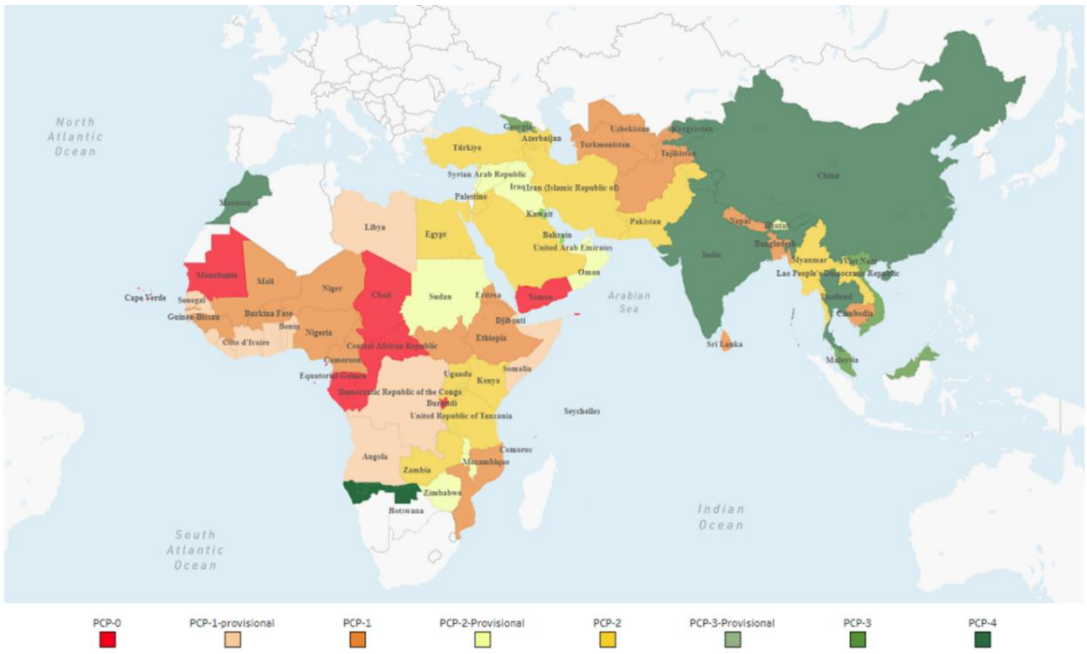

Figure 29. Stages of countries along the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD at the end of 2023.

Note: Data from GF-TADs FMD Working Group (Regional Advisory Group (RAG) assessment from the latest FMD Roadmap meetings), and National Authorities.

Source: UN. 2024. PCP-FMD dashboard available at https://www.gf-tads.org/fmd/progress-on-fmd-control-strategy/en/ consulted on 16 February 2024. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dotted or dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

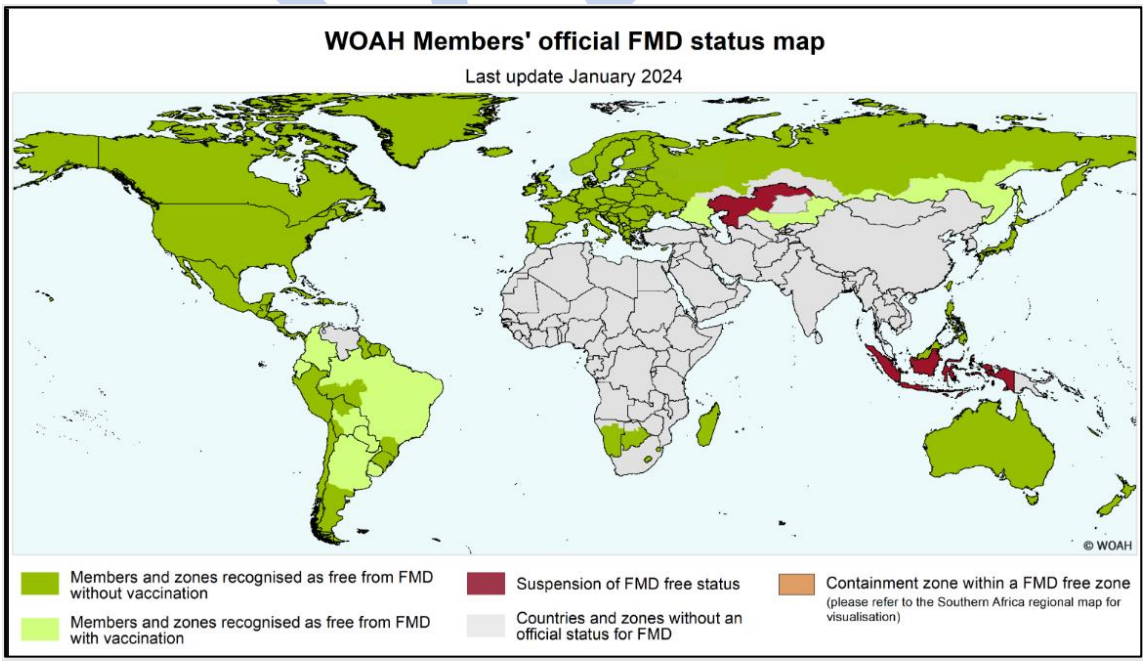

Figure 30. Map of FMD official status at the end of 2023.

- Meetings

Three PCP-FMD Roadmap meetings were held in 2023:

- The 9th West Eurasia FMD Roadmap meeting was held in Azerbaijan (Baku) in April (in conjunction with PPR Blueprint Consultation)
- The 4th South Asia FMD Roadmap meeting was held in Bhutan (Paro) in May (in conjunction with 1st South Asia Transboundary Animal Disease (LSD and PPR) coordination meeting)
- The 4th West Africa FMD Roadmap meeting was held virtually in December 2023, with the participation of all 15 ECOWAS countries. The disease remains endemic in the region, with 4 countries (Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria) fully accepted in Stage 1. The membership of the RAG was updated and 18 recommendations were adopted.

Participants in each meeting agreed upon conclusions and recommendations. In all cases, strengthened awareness and advocacy concerning the impact of FMD and benefit of control is needed to address the lack of resources. Vaccine procurement challenges and lack of surveillance to ensure effective and targeted control measures were also identified as key challenges. The FMD Working Group met with Regional Advisory Groups of South Asia and West Africa to discuss the FMD situation and ways to support each country. Reports are available on the GF-TADs website.

- Other

A French open-access course 'Introduction au Plan d'évaluation des risques' was made available under the umbrella of the GF-TADs, right before the West Africa FMD Roadmap meeting.

The SEACFMD Campaign has launched the 'SEACFMD portal', a web-accessible digital resource for targeted stakeholders, including the roadmaps, handouts, communication tools and FMD situation dashboard.

PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSOs) are assigned to provide tailored assistance to countries. This support is in high demand, with 13 PSOs working with over 30 countries. A review of the PSO system has been conducted, and a proposal to enhance the impact and sustainability of the system by training new PSOs based in the regions where support is needed, under the mentorship of FMD experts was approved by the FMD WG. The Senior PSOs (EuFMD experts) have been consistently engaged in the technical revision of the plans/programmes submitted in 2023.

Zambia's *Risk Based Strategic Plan* (RBSP) was reviewed by the FMD WG and the RAG for Southern Africa accepted Zambia in PCP Stage (2) in November 2023.
A WOAH laboratory twinning project on FMD between the Pirbright Institute (WRLFMD) and Kenya has been initiated to strengthen capacity on FMD diagnosis.

Challenges

The lack of financial resources has been reported regularly as a limiting factor in implementing FMD control activities, especially vaccine procurement. There is a lack of timely surveillance information in some regions, which hinders effective vaccination, as the vaccines must be matched to the circulating strains. Advancement along the PCP-FMD is hampered by the slow development of national FMD risk assessment plans and risk-based strategic plans, and the expansion of the PSO system is meant to address this challenge. The Veterinary Services in some countries may benefit from support to advocate for more resources and national prioritisation for FMD control. In addition, there is a high turnover of Veterinary Services personnel trained in the procedure for the official recognition of animal health status or endorsement of FMD control programmes by WOAH, and this creates a limitation on the applications for new status, requiring continued training, as often requested by Member countries.

FAO and WOAH conducted activities on their own contributing to the FMD Strategy, ensuring coordination between the two organisations thanks to the FMD WG.

Highlight on FAO activities contributing to the global FMD strategy

- Enhanced preparedness for FMD Serotype SAT2 in Middle East and West Eurasia:
    - A qualitative assessment to assess the likelihood of introduction and further spread of FMDv SAT2 in West Eurasia and the Near East was carried out in collaboration with FAO, EuFMD and WRLFMD.

    - A series of three webinars for countries in the Middle East and West Eurasia regions was delivered to strengthen their capacity for better preparedness and response to FMD serotype SAT2, an exotic serotype that has recently been detected in the region. The webinars were delivered through the Virtual Learning Center for Near East and North Africa (VLC-RNE) More than 600 participants from 40 countries registered for the webinar series.
    - A mission was undertaken to Iraq by the Emergency Management Center in June 2023
    - The Statement of intention (SOI) agreement in Transcaucasus and the associated risk information sharing platform supported by the EuFMD has proven its value during the SAT2 epizootic, by facilitating sharing of information and clinical samples.
- Two virtual PCP-FMD Support Officers (PSOs) induction training workshops (English and French Session) were designed and delivered, with dedicated pages hosted on FAO's Virtual Learning Centres platform for Near East (VLC-NE) and for West Africa (SFW). PSOs roster expanded with a cohort of 40 new trainees from East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, North Africa, Middle East, and South Asia roadmap regions.
- A second version of Self-Assessment tool for FMD (FMD-SATv2) was developed considering challenges of the previous version and piloted during regional roadmap meetings. The end-user feedback collected on the usefulness, interface friendliness, relevance, and outputs of the SAT-v2 was very positive.
- The development of FMD control strategies for three regional roadmaps (East Africa, West Africa, and Middle East) was initiated.
- An FMD specific laboratory mapping tool (LMT-FMD) to assess the laboratory capacities for FMD diagnostics was developed.
- Two Guideline documents were drafted (On i) FMD Surveillance and ii) Economic Assessment of FMD).
- Field and lab support package were initiated in 9 beneficiary countries in 3 roadmap regions (Middle East SADC, and West Africa) to strengthen national capacities for the control of FMD and other TADs.
- Collaborations with the WRLFMD have continued in 2023 through a regular agreement with the EuFMD to support the Network of FMD reference laboratories, to support the delivery of the in-depth and bilingual FMD Laboratory virtual training, to publish on a quarterly basis the FMDV global laboratory reports (using PRAGMATIST outputs), and to develop the genomic and surveillance dashboards that will be made available through the 'Open-FMD portal'.
- Ad-hoc support was provided to facilitate international shipment of clinical samples and sera from endemic Pools (Pools 2-5) to international reference laboratories for FMD, as well as ad-hoc support for reagent procurement.
- The third meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on vaccine security was held in March 2023 (report) to discuss the challenges that have arisen since the implementation of the Nagoya protocol, a problem statement and assessment of options for possible solutions have been published. A position paper has been published, under the leadership of the World Reference Laboratory for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (WRLFMD) and is available here
- VADEMOS-FMD, the stochastic model developed by the EuFMD to quantify and estimate future demand for FMD vaccines in countries engaged in the PCP-FMD was the subject of a validation workshop in June 2023, and has been included as a decision support tool of the PCP-FMD toolkit.

Highlight on WOAH activities contributing to the FMD strategy

Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC) of the Southeast Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEACFMD) met in March 2023 and made recommendations on the strengthening of partnerships between the veterinary services and private sectors in line with WOAH Guidelines on Public Private Partnership (PPP) to enhance FMD prevention and control including safer trade and to reduce impact of FMD.

The 26th SEACFMD National Coordinators meeting in August 2023 aligned the ongoing SEACFMD activities based on the findings and recommendations of the SEACFMD campaign evaluation from 1997 to 2020; and explored options to enhance cost efficient synergies for the control of FMD and other related TADs such as ASF, LSD and PPR. This approach to synergies was implemented during the South Asia meeting that jointly addressed PPR and FMD including LSD, and the approach was well received by Members.

WOAH continued to provide training and guidelines to Members regarding the requirements for official recognition and in 2023. In order to prioritise the support to Africa region Members in the PCP-FMD Stages 0, 1 and 2, a workshop was held in September 2023 in South Africa with a focus on strengthening FMD risk assessment principles and to share tools to strengthen national control strategies and to accelerate the advancement along the PCP-FMD for these priority Members. The low level of national prioritisation of FMD coupled with limited to no financial resource allocation to TADs control activities is critical particularly in some parts of Africa hence the low level of advancement such as in West and Central Africa compared to other regions such as Southeast Asia and southern Africa where exports justify prioritisation and control of FMD.

The outcomes and recommendations of PVS mission reports were also used to identify areas where the countries should continue to strengthen the veterinary Services to control FMD and other TADs. Improvements of the levels attained in certain critical competencies of the PVS pathway supports FMD control. Public Private Partnerships (PPP) workshops, and other targeted capacity building programmes of the PVS pathway continue to support the strengthening of the VS. The ongoing WOAH Laboratory Twinning project between The Pirbright Institute, United Kingdom, and the FMD National Reference Laboratory, Embakasi, Kenya, aims at building enhanced diagnostic capacity for FMD in Kenya and the East African region. That will enable more Members to access high-quality FMD diagnostic testing and technical knowledge within East Africa.

A FMD Risk Assessment training workshop was held in South Africa (Johannesburg) from 19-21 September 2023, with the financial support of US-DTRA. Eleven countries (Burundi, Cameron, Chad, Ethiopia, Gabon, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) participated in the workshop (note that Uganda and Zimbabwe were not funded by US-DTRA). Additionally, the SADC Secretariat, FAO Southern Africa, EU-FMD and WOAH/FAO Reference Laboratories (Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute) and Botswana Vaccine Institute) also attended the meeting. Countries represented were either in stage O of the FMD progressive pathway or at risk of incursion of FMD exotic serotype O. The workshop was facilitated by experts from South Africa (University of Pretoria) and delivered in English and French. The training covered theoretical and practical aspects of i) risk assessment, ii) qualitative and quantitative Risk assessment, iii) identification and measurement of risk of introduction, transmission and spread (hazards, entry, and exposure assessment), iv) risk factor analysis, vi) expert opinion elicitation, vii) mapping of disease outbreaks and viii) spatial cluster analysis, hot spots and evaluation of clusters. Hands-on development of risk assessment plans, risk based strategic plans followed with discussion on the challenges and possible solutions for progression along the FMD Progressive Control Pathway.

Communication and awareness

WOAH recognizes the importance of sensitizing Members on the risk of spread of FMD particularly during festivities and times of peak travel due to religious ceremonies and in 2023 sent out awareness messages to members of the public regarding the risk of spread of FMD. An awareness raising article was published on safeguarding livestock during seasonal movements bearing in mind that such movements are increasing due to the impact of climate change and the search for pastures.

Publications

Various PCP-FMD guidelines and supporting tools were developed, updated and shared with the members to facilitate their work and that of the Working Group, including templates for strategic plans as well as meeting reports. The resources are published on the GF-TADs website. Also, a dashboard to visualise PCP-FMD progression was developed.

Funding for FMD

FAO projects

Table 8. Projects funded by FAO or partners.

Donor	Scope	Amount (USD)	Period covered
FAO	National (Uganda)	100,000	2023 - 2024

Czech Republic	National (Zambia)	184,179	2020 - 2023
FAO	National (Venezuela)	200,000	2023 - 2024
FAO	National (Zambia)	251,000	2020 - 2023
FAO	National (Mauritius)	400,000	2022 - 2023
Germany	National (Uganda)	500,000	2023
FAO	National (Malawi)	500,000	2022 - 2023
Australia	National (Indonesia)	799,316	2023 - 2024
European Union	National (Uganda)	3,538,813	2020 - 2024
Pakistan	National (Pakistan)	42,793,584	2017 - 2024
Defense Threat Reduction Agency	Multi-regional (Africa, Black Sea Basin, Middle East)	3,822,070	2020 - 2024

In addition, 20 other projects (funded by FAO or partners) on TADs, animal health systems, food security etc implemented certain FMD related activities such as FMD simulation exercise, FMD surveillance, procurement of FMD vaccine or reagents.

EuFMD project

European Union-funded activities by the European Commission for the control of FMD (GCP/GLO/026/EC) to improve preparedness, reduce risk and sustain global strategy: 2019– September 2023, EUR 11,200,000, of which EUR 2,650,000 were for the Pillar III Programme specifically aimed at sustaining the FMD Global Control Strategy and EUR 2,698,000 is to improve FMD and similar TADs control in the European neighbourhood (North Africa, Middle East and Southeast Europe). The European Commission committed to support the Strategic workplan of the EuFMD for Phase VI (starting in October 2023 to 2027), under which the Action Area 5 particularly deals with Support to Global FMD Control.

WOAH projects

Source: GF-TADs FMD Working Group.

Table 9. Projects funded by WOAH partners.

Resource Partners/ Donor	Project status	Target Region	Activities	FMD Project Budget EUR	Project end date
China (Peoples Rep. of.)	on-going	SEACFMD; Asia & Pacific; Global	- Studies - CD Lab and other - SEACFMD - Awareness (coms)	1,069,173	open
Japan-Trust Fund	on-going	Asia & Pacific	- Broad set of activities agreed with Japan MAFF		rolling contribution
USA - DTRA GF-TADs	closed	Global and regional	- Coms - Risk Assessment - PSO - Roadmaps/ReLabs/EpiLabs - Eval of Strat	300,000	closed

USA - DTRA GF-TADs II	negotiation	Global and regional	- GF-TADs Strategy		31.12.2027
EU 2023-2025	on-going	Europe and Africa	Road-maps, RAGs, Epi/Lab meetings in Europe, Africa and ME	168,000.00	31.01.2025
Germany BMZ OHRT	on-going	Namibia/SADC Cameroon/ECCAS	- Horizontal Capacity Building	850,000	31.12.2026
Italy V	on-going	Global and regional	- flexible	550,000.00	31.12.2025
New Zealand MFAT	closed	SEACFMD; Laos; Myanmar	- Vaccine - Capacity Building	8,900,000	closed

Update: 15 February 2024.

Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP)

PPR Secretariat

The FAO WOAH Joint Secretariat was established by FAO and WOAH in March 2016 to drive the peste des petits ruminants (PPR) eradication effort on a global scale and support countries in fighting the disease under GF-TADs. The Secretariat reports to the GF-TADs Management Committee for coordination with other GF-TADs initiatives. Currently, the PPR Secretariat is composed of three WOAH staff members and ten FAO staff members (and one support staff), all based in their respective organisations (except the Secretary, 2 interns and support staff based in FAO-HQ). Each FAO staff is assigned to coordinated activities in the region (s) where he (she) is based.

The Rome-based UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP) ambassadors and Permanent Representatives 'Friends of the PPR Global Eradication Programme' (GEP) established in 2018 have been advocating for the programme at all levels, including during governing body meetings. The PPR GEP Secretary has been liaising regularly with them for policy decisions. The Permanent Representative meeting was held on 10 December 2021, with six ministers invited to share their views on controlling PPR. The subsequently meet in November 2022 and April 2023. At their April meeting, among recommendations made, the following were highlighted: i) preparing a policy brief showing the link between PPR and other global agenda priorities, ii) liaising with FAO's Resource Mobilization Division (PSR) to prepare guidelines and support for effective resource mobilization options, approaches and tools including donor intelligence and agreement negotiation, and iii) Permanent Representatives undertaking field missions to assess the implementation of PPR GEP preferably during ongoing vaccination campaigns.

The work of the Secretariat is supported by two governance structures, namely the PPR Advisory Committee, established in 2017 (meeting once per year), which provides strategic guidance and recommendations to the PPR Secretariat, and the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR-GREN also meeting once per year), which met for the first time in 2018 and been meeting yearly. The last meetings were on 7–9 December 2022 at CIRAD and NEVI India in 28-30 November 2023. The GREN serves as a forum for scientific and technical consultation, debates and discussions about PPR, encouraging innovation and supporting the PPR GEP. In line with the PPR GEP Blueprint approved in November 2022, the fifth GREN thematic group on episystem was established in 2023. The GREN has almost 320 members divided in 5 thematic groups: vaccination, wildlife, atypical species, socio-economy and episystem.

Brief description of the strategy

The PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) was endorsed at the International Conference for the Control and Eradication of PPR organised by FAO and WOAH in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in April 2015. The three components of the PPR GCES are: (i) the eradication of PPR globally by 2030, (ii) the strengthening of Veterinary Services and (iii) the control of other small ruminant diseases prioritised by stakeholders.

The overarching PPR GCES at the national level is based on four stages that combine decreasing levels of epidemiological risk with increasing levels of prevention and control. In Stage 1, the epidemiological situation is assessed. In Stage 2, control activities, including vaccination, are implemented. PPR is eradicated at Stage 3. In Stage 4, vaccination is suspended; the country must provide evidence that no virus is circulating at the zonal or national level and that it is ready to apply to WOAH for official recognition of its PPR-free status.

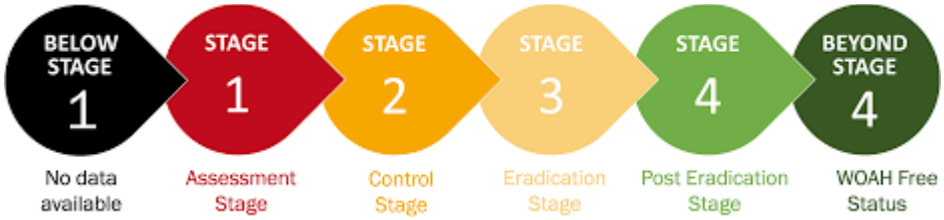

Figure 31. Progressive PPR control and eradication – the four stages of the PPR GCES. Source: FAO, OIE. 2015. Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. Rome, FAO. http://www.fao.org/3/i4460e/I4460E.pdf

To implement the strategy, the first five-year PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) was launched in 2017. The GEP is a multi-country, multi-stage process that implements the GCES. The four stages it sets out in

GCES involve assessment, control, eradication and maintenance of PPR-free status. Regardless of the stage in which a country is initially placed, it will be supported to achieve the capacity it needs for each of the five key elements of PPR prevention and control, namely the diagnostic system, surveillance system, prevention and control system, legal framework and stakeholder involvement. Putting these five elements in place will enable any country to move with confidence to the next stage of control and eradication.

To categorise a country within these four stages, the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), a companion tool of the PPR GCES, is used. It measures activities and their impacts at each stage by requiring countries to input epidemiological and activities-based evidence, which it converts into guidance and milestones.

Epidemiological situation

Currently, 59 countries, plus one zone, are officially recognised as PPR-free; 67 are infected, and 71 have not reported PPR. Between 2015 and 2019, 12,757 outbreaks were reported to WOAH by 59 countries. By 2020, this number had shown a marked decrease. For example, 21 of the 67 infected countries have had no reported PPR outbreaks for more than 24 months, and 10 of these have had no outbreaks between 2015 and 2019. The conclusion is that control measures have had a significant positive impact. Figure 4 shows the current PPR distribution, with each country's position according to PMAT and WOAH official recognition. Since 2015, many countries have moved from Stage 1 to Stage 2 or 3.

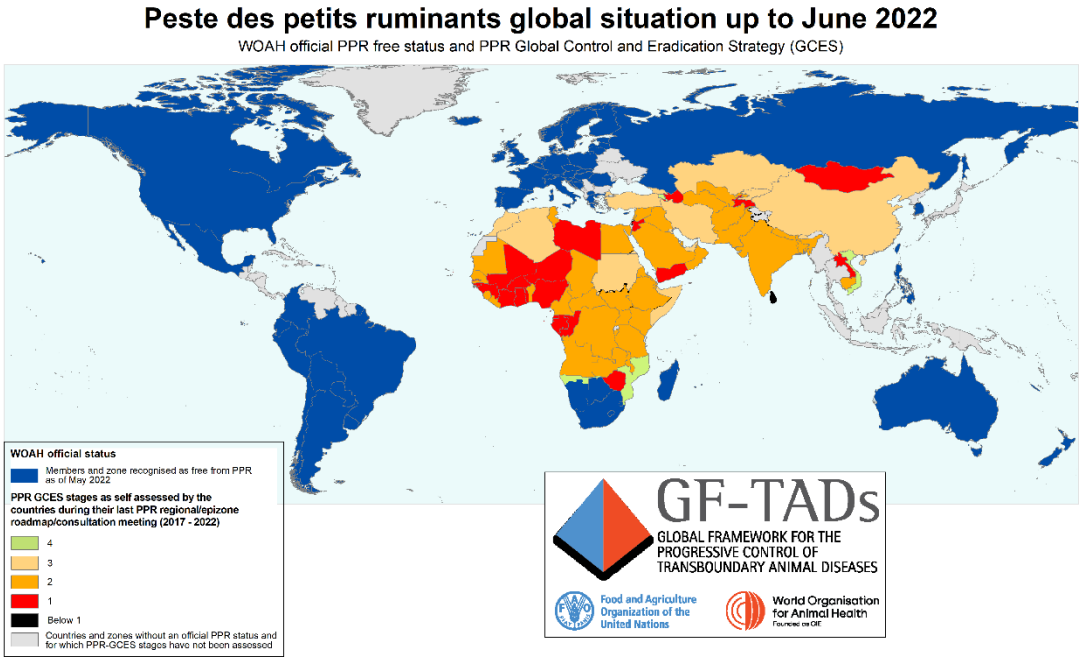

Figure 32. The PPR global situation with respect to the GCES stepwise approach, as reported by countries during roadmap meetings up to June 2022 (source: https://www.gf-tads.org/resources/publication-detail/en/c/1156005/).
[This graph will be updated for 2023 in the final version of the activity report]

Highlight on FAO-WOAH joint activities contributing to PPR Strategy

Global level activities

The PPR Global Research and Expertise Network (PPR GREN) meeting held on 27--30 November 2023 emphasised the need for research innovations to contribute to the eradication phase of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP).

The PPR AC was held on 01-02/12/2023 and the recommendations were presented to the GF-TAD MC and focussed on: i) advocacy for the PPR GEP, ii) resource mobilisation, iii) PPR strategic plans at national and regional level aligned to PPR GEP BP; iv) research, v) Vaccination Strategy, vi)_the need to identify likely technical challenges to be addressed in immediate future for the successful implementation of the PPR GEP BP.

A vaccine producers meeting, held on 27-31 March 2023, discussed the PPR thermostable vaccine and the total demand for PPR vaccine in the forthcoming eradication phase.

- Preparation for Digitalization of PMAT
- Preparation for development of e-modules of PMAT

Support for the regional strategy

Africa

- The 10th **Eastern Africa** and IGAD regional PPR Coordination and Blueprint meeting was held from 3 - 5 May 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda. The meeting was attended by 45 participants (29 physical and 16 virtual), including representatives of 9 IGAD-EAC countries (South Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Democratic Republic of the Congo), the joint FAO-WOAH PPR GEP secretariat, representatives of FAO and WOAH sub-regional offices, ICPALD, vaccine production labs (NVI-Ethiopia and KEVEVAPI-Kenya), AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC, PPR Core Expert Team (CET), PPR reference Laboratories, GF-TAD and ILRI. The meeting focused on creating awareness on key aspects of the recently launched PPR Blueprint, knowledge and information sharing and harmonization of the regional control and eradication efforts.
- The Regional PPR Strategy for **North Africa** was developed by FAO and reviewed/updated in line with the PPR GEP Blueprint and the Pan-African PPR Strategy, in consultation with the *Union du Maghreb Arabe* (UMA), African Union *Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources* (AU-IBAR), the Mediterranean Animal Health Network *(Réseau méditerranéen de santé animale* – REMESA) Secretariat and experts. The revised strategy was presented and discussed at full-day workshop in Ioannina, Greece on 21 June 2023 and recommendations were made and presented by the UMA Secretariat at the 26th REMESA *Joint Permanent Committee* (JPC) meeting on 22 June 2023. This is a major step forward in strengthened the strategy, advocacy, and work-planning towards PPR eradication for the North Africa region.
- A cross border harmonization workshop, organized by FAO, for PPR eradication in Western Africa and Regional Advisory Group were held on 6th – 8th November 2023, in Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire. The meeting brought together representatives from countries sharing the Mano River basin and RAG members of Western Africa Region. Ambassador Seydou Cisse, Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire for the Rome-based UN agencies, FAO and WOAH staff were also in attendance. The objective of the meeting was to facilitate countries sharing borders in the Mano River Basin engage in action-oriented discussions about managing risks considering that the PPR *Global Eradication Program*me (GEP) recognize the transboundary nature of PPR and emphasize the importance of consideration of potential incursion, distribution and risk pathways at the national level or within shared epidemiological patterns and disease drivers, referred to as an *episystem*. A RAG meeting was held on the sidelines of the cross-border meeting to support RAG members understand their role and agree on next steps of action to ensure the RAG is functional. After this meeting Ambassador Cisse and FAO held a meeting with the *African Development Bank* (AfDB) in Abidjan to assess possible resources to support the PPR GEP.
- The Action fiche for the EU project for **PPR eradication in Africa** was jointly prepared by FAO/IBAR/PANVAC/WOAH. The modus operandi for pan-Africa secretariat (PAS) was drafted by AU-IBAR and inputs were provided by FAO and WOAH. Using the EU project, An EU multi-partner agreement will be signed by the AUC/EU/FAO/WOAH. Based on comparative advantages of each institution, specific budget has been allocated to that institution. FAO and WOAH will second respectively an epidemiologist and animal health specialist to PAS. AU-PANVAC to second a laboratory specialist and AU-IBAR the coordinator. With FAO support, AU-IBAR will be calling a regional economic communities (inter-REC) meeting from 21-23/04/2024 in Morocco to discuss PPR coordination activities in Africa. During this meeting, the UMA regional strategy will be validated.

South Asia

With FAO staff in charge of the region, following regional activities among other were implemented: i) organized and facilitated South Asian TAD Regional Roadmap meeting at Paro, Bhutan, March 2023, ii) Facilitated the

election of new RAG and organized first South Asian Regional Advisory Group (RAG) virtual meeting and organized virtual trainings on Laboratory, Epidemiology and vaccine implementation consultative meetings for Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Under recruitment a consultant in charge of ASEAN and Mongolia/China.

West Eurasia

With FAO staff in charge of the region established a network of national epidemiology and laboratory coordinators, enhancing regional Central Asia collaboration and strategic alignment in the PPR control. During an epidemiological training and cross-border harmonization meeting as well as through the national coordinators network, it was possible to divide countries into 3 epidemiological groups: i) free, ii) never reported PPR and iii) infected. In addition to the above, FAO also assist in capacity building in the aspect of disease management.

- Preparation of EU project for PPR eradication in Africa

Highlight on FAO activities contributing to PPR Strategy

Surveillance, intelligence, network, preparedness

Under this, many activities were implemented:

- Successfully established a robust network of national epidemiology and laboratory coordinators, enhancing regional collaboration and strategic alignment in the PPR control
- Mapped PPR infections and implemented surveillance and strategic planning for controlling PPR in Jordan and Egypt
- Strengthened the veterinary service of the veterinary authorities by capacity building in PMAT and in building the countries National Strategic Plans (NSPs). This was done through hiring national consultant and technical support from the PPR secretariat.
- ToRs for National Consultancies on PPR risk mapping shared with 8 ECOWAS countries, 1 commenced, 2 approved, the rest yet to start implementation.
- Organized and facilitated South Asian TAD Regional Roadmap meeting at Paro, Bhutan, March 2023
- Assisted countries to undertake PMAT self-assessment (ongoing)
- Contributed to the training of RAG members and assisted in work plan development.
- Facilitated dossier preparation for PPR historically free countries (ongoing) in collaboration with FAOSFS (Ongoing)
- Led organization and implementation of virtual Training workshop for North Africa on PPR surveillance and episystems to enable disease detection, control, and eradication (45 participants from 6 countries).
- Provided training to build capacities on surveillance & control at wildlife-livestock interface (REU, WA, SAARC).
- Assisted Sri Lanka for sero-surveillance for dossier preparation, more than 3 000 serum samples collected.
- Helped in planning field surveillance in Bhutan for dossier preparation,
- Working closely with WCS and IAEA for controlling PPR at the livestock-wildlife interface in Mongolia. Samples were recently collected and sent to IAEA for analysis.
- Established and facilitated network of PPR national coordinators, epidemiology, and laboratory networks to enhance regional collaboration and strategic alignment in PPR control.
- Conducted virtual monthly meetings in each for updates on their PPR national strategic plans implementation activities.

Laboratory capacity building and networks

Capacity building and technology transfer was carried out for ELISA, PCR, Real time PCR, Multiplex PCR and LFD. In collaboration with the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre, for 39 countries with more than 100 participants trained. In 2022, PPR proficiency testing (PT) was carried out in 31 countries for 34 laboratories. In 2023, PPR PT was carried out in 37 countries for 39 laboratories. Other activities implemented are:

- Organized virtual trainings on laboratory, epidemiology and vaccine implementation consultative meetings for Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka

- Laboratory training and serosurvey sample analysis was done in Cape Verde for Dossier preparation and being planned the same for Sri Lanka
- Laboratory Monitoring tool (LMT) for PPR was developed and piloted in 5 countries.
- Facilitated a specialized workshop on laboratory methods for PPR diagnosis, leading to improved disease surveillance and response capabilities across national veterinary services in the SAARC region.
- Organized and facilitated Epidemiology and laboratory network consultative meetings in 5 regions,
- Organized Laboratory capacity development training (the United Republic of Tanzania) for national staff.
- Strengthened diagnostic capacities by implementing practical training in Jordan for 4 different Middle Eastern countries. The private sector was included in this training.
- 25-diagnostic ELISA kits were procured and assisted in mapping the PPR distribution in 14 countries with 40,000 samples collected and analyzed.
- Strengthened the diagnostic capacities of veterinary authorities by providing needed diagnostic kits and technical support.

Studies, guidelines/tools/manuals production and implementation

Through European Commission support, and via the World Food Forum Transformative Research Challenge, 12 out of 83 applicants were awarded the PPR Special Prize in 2022, and 6 out of 34 applicants were awarded the prize in 2023. All the winners are either MSc or PhD students working on various research topics pertinent to the PPR GEP. The winners could present their research during the monthly PPR Stakeholder seminars as well as during the annual GREN meeting. They are also mentored by the Secretariat jointly with research institutions.

Using it 10 staff as well as almost 30 national consultants recruited in 08 regions, countries have been assisted for updating their NSP in line with PPR GEP Blueprint. These assisted implementing are listed below:

- Development of Guidelines and templates (NSP, regional strategy, National PPR Contingency Plan, PPR mainstreaming guide, communication strategic plan, PPR national surveillance plan, vaccination, episystem among other) as well as manuals,
- Coordinated PMAT e-learning and digitization.
- Coordinated the revision of the Regional PPR Strategy for North Africa and organized a validation workshop on the strategy and its presentation at the REMESA meeting.
- Assisted countries in updating their NSP in line with PPR GEP Blueprint
- Assisted (technical backstopping) countries to undertake PMAT self-assessment(ongoing).
- A Field Manual was produced for the PPR Diagnosis and currently under review.

Vaccine production and quality control

- Establish a network of vaccine producers to monitor meetings recommendations and vaccines procurement.
- Convince Georgia to stop the vaccination and move to verification for freedom Approximately 80,000,000 animals were vaccinated between 2022/23 from FAO projects.
- A PPR vaccine seed virus was provided to countries to replace the contaminated seed virus.
- Followed-up with PAAVAC and vaccine producers for thermotolerant vaccines production and testing. Similarly followed with ILRI and IFAD for field testing of thermotolerant vaccines
- Publication in Nature Reports and Vaccine collaborating with GALVMED, RVC, IAEA, Pirbright and CIRAD on validation of Diagnostics for atypical species and liquid stabilized vaccine in sheep and goats.
- Assisted Pakistan through FAO funding for the procurement of vaccine seed virus from CIRAD.

Communication for development and cross border harmonization

A cross border harmonization (episystem) workshop, organized by FAO, for PPR eradication in Western Africa and Regional Advisory Group were held on 6th – 8th November 2023, in Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire. The meeting brought together representatives from countries sharing the Mano River basin and RAG members of Western Africa Region. Ambassador Seydou Cisse, Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire for the Rome-based UN agencies, ECOWAS and WOAH staff were also in attendance. The objective of the meeting was to facilitate countries sharing borders in the Mano River Basin engage in action-oriented discussions about

managing risks considering that the PPR *Global Eradication Programm*e (GEP) recognize the transboundary nature of PPR and emphasize the importance of consideration of potential incursion, distribution and risk pathways at the national level or within shared epidemiological patterns and disease drivers, referred to as an *episystem*. A RAG meeting was held on the sidelines of the cross-border meeting to support RAG members understand their role and agree on next steps of action to ensure the RAG is functional. After this meeting Ambassador Cisse and FAO held a meeting with the *African Development Bank* (AfDB) in Abidjan to assess possible resources to support the PPR GEP.

- Conducted a regional cross-border harmonization training workshops in 4 regions that significantly elevated the proficiency in dossier preparation, contributing to the international recognition of Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR) freedom in the region.
- PPR leaflets were developed to educate farmers and stakeholders on the clinical signs of PPR, as well as on prevention and control measures.
- Coordinated and collaborated with the AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA and IGAD-ICPALD on PPR GEP for the implementation of MoU on cross-border harmonization.
- Trained ECOWAS RAG members on their roles and responsibilities and facilitated the election of new RAG and organized first South Asian Regional Advisory Group (RAG) virtual meeting.

Resource mobilization and advocacy

Each year since 2019, a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal has been dedicated to PPR research. In 2019, the journal was Frontiers in Veterinary Science, in 2020 Viruses, in 2021 Animals and in 2022/23 Viruses. Secretariat being the guest editors.

Through partnerships with institutions, major accomplishments were achieved including:

Strong partnership with the African Union - Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) underpinned the development and launch of the Pan African PPR Eradication Programme (2022-2027). The collaboration with the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AUPANVAC) is to assess and develop standardized criteria for thermotolerant PPR vaccines.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) was capacitated to mitigate the threat of PPR to wildlife: FAO-WOAH Guidelines for the Control and Prevention of PPR in wildlife populations are now available in all six official UN languages and Mongolian, and a Practical Guide for monitoring PPR in wildlife has been developed by WCS and FAO.

The PPR mainstreaming guide to support resource mobilization has been piloted in few countries and will be validated during the next advisory committee meeting in June 2024.

Visit or discussion with resources partner:

- African Development Bank:
- Islamic Development Bank: organize side event during IsDB governing body meeting and involve on Bank activities.
- Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation: discussion in September 2023 with JJ Soula (WOAH), mission plan to Seattle,
- US-APHIS: can support in the short term or seconding a part-time staff to the Secretariat.
- IFAD: Ambassador Cisse send a letter for follow-up of the 41st IFAD PPR side event meeting recommendations
- World Bank: currently supporting PRAPS and suggestion to organize a meeting to understand weaknesses of surveillance and vaccination.
- European Community: AU-IBAR grant of Euro 8M under negotiation.

Highlight on WOAH activities contributing to PPR Strategy

Support to regional strategy

In addition to activities conducted jointly with FAO, regional coordination meetings were organised by WOAH for

East Asia countries as a side event of a CVO forum meeting, and for South East Asia, not covered by a road map, leading to ASEAN PPR preparedness strategy.

WOAH also organised the technical item on PPR during the 25th regional conference for Africa leading to specific recommendations, taken into account to develop a joint programme for sub-Saharan African countries with AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and FAO starting from 2024.

A PPR and CBPP coordination meeting was held in Chad from 3 - 5 October 2023. The meeting brought together CVOs, veterinary delegates from neighbouring regions, private veterinarians, directors of veterinary laboratories, representatives of farmers' organisations from Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, and Niger, as well as representatives of WOAH and regional animal health centres in ECOWAS and ECCAS. That coordination meeting is in line with the PPR *Global Control and Eradication Strategy* (PPR GCES) guidelines which strongly recommend that these states adopt a sub-regional and cross-border approach to the control and eradication of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases such as PPR. The meeting aimed at discussing national strategic plans for controlling CBPP and eradicating PPR in the respective countries, providing information on the numbers of animals vaccinated against CBPP and PPR, respectively during the recent campaigns, programming the number of animals to be vaccinated against CBPP and PPR for the next campaigns, planning and harmonising vaccination programmes against CBPP and PPR between the concerned countries, adopting a mechanism to ensure the continuity of meetings to coordinate joint vaccination campaigns at border level, strengthening and consolidating contacts between the veterinary authorities of these countries for any other TADs.

Strengthening laboratory diagnostics for PPR

The WOAH Reference Laboratory network for PPR managed by the three WOAH Reference Laboratories (CIRAD, the French agricultural research and co-operation organisation; The Pirbright Institute [United Kingdom]; and the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center [People's Republic of China]) and composed of 21 laboratories, continued its support activities, which included organisation of proficiency testing with over 40 participants, and webinars (e.g. a webinar on Harmonisation of PPR diagnostic practices through proficiency tests and the third WOAH PPR Reference Laboratories network workshop) as well as keeping Members updated through the annual newsletter. A laboratory twinning project was completed; three countries, Morocco, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania, benefited from this programme.

Other capacity building activities

Regional/epizone meetings provided opportunities to support Members with their PPR control activities and to assess and document Members' progression along the four -stage process towards PPR eradication. By the end of 2023, a total of 13 PVS missions with a PPR-specific component had been conducted; in 2023, this activity was conducted in Zambia. The PVS reports link to the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) as it provides objective field verification of PMAT staging with targeted recommendations that feed into the National Strategic Plans (NSPs). WOAH will continue to support Members with elaborating their PPR control and eradication plans and provide training on WOAH procedures for official recognition of PPR free status and for the endorsement of official PPR control programmes.

Following the finalisation of the revised PMAT (PMAT2), FAO and WOAH in 2023 initiated the development of e-module training to assist Members in the efficient use of the tool, which will enable them to monitor and evaluate the status of their PPR control and eradication activities and their progress along the stages of the PPR GCES. In addition, the development of a digital version of the PMAT was initiated to help users at country level to run the assessment as a collective exercise and facilitate PMAT submission and assessment by the Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs); for users at the Global and Regional GF-TADs Secretariat, the digital PMAT will provide an overview of common gaps and priorities for Members to address.

The Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS) continued to provide technical support to its beneficiary Members in the Sahel. The PRAPS project is supporting the implementation of PPR national strategic plans in the beneficiary Members. The project also assisted a few other countries in West Africa (Benin, Togo and Côte

d'Ivoire) in the development of their PPR eradication programmes. As a result, PRAPS countries and Benin, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire are progressing well with their PPR control programme.

WOAH encourages Members that have never reported PPR to implement the required surveillance and other necessary activities to ensure compliance with the relevant WOAH standards with regard to official PPR free status and subsequently undertake the procedures for submission of an application to WOAH for the official recognition of their PPR free status. FAO and AU-IBAR have expressed their willingness to assist Members in this regard.

OHRT[1] TADs and PC-TADs[2] projects, funded by BMZ[3] , covering Cameroon, Namibia, Kenya and Ethiopia are ongoing and, in the case of Kenya, they are helping to strengthen the veterinary workforce and implement the PPR vaccination campaign.

Support to vaccine access

The WOAH PPR vaccine bank has continued to give Members the opportunity to access, at a negotiated price, quality vaccines in accordance with an international procurement procedure. In 2023, 25 million doses of PPR vaccine were delivered through the WOAH PPR vaccine bank.

Publications

- In 2022, *Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme II & III: Overview of the plan of action: Together for Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication by 2030* was published by Blueprint, FAO; World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (founded as OIE).
- In 2021, *Guidelines for the Control and Prevention of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in Wildlife Populations*, drafted by the WOAH Working Group on Wildlife and the PPR GREN in collaboration with the PPR Secretariat, were published on the FAO and WOAH websites.

Each year since 2019, a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal has been dedicated to PPR. In 2019, the journal was *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, and in 2020, *Virus*. In 2021, *Animals* was selected for the special issue on 'Peste des Petits Ruminants: Five Years Implementation of Its Global Eradication Programme'. Currently, eight papers have been published. Also, a PPR special prize was established by FAO at the World Food Forum Transformative Challenge, with 12 winners in 2022. The prize is to support MSc and PhD students in collecting data for their theses.

Funding for PPR

FAO

France (2017–2020; US$ 330,891), DTRA (2019–2023; US$ 2,384,926), EC (Euro 2,500,000) FAO regular funds and several trust funds at the country level. IAEA with almost 10 projects with PPR component.

WOAH

DTRA (2019–2022; US$ 600,000; geographical scope: global), World Bank Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (2015–2021; US$ 3,140,060 to ensure the regional coordination of the animal health component; geographical scope: Sahel), German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (2020–2024; EUR 2,500,000; geographical scope: East Africa), EU-DG SANTE (2019–2020; EUR 80,000; geographical scope: global), Italy (December 2021; EUR 150,000; geographical scope: global). Note: The World Bank funded Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project launched in 2015 (2015–2021; US$ 248 million; geographical scope: Sahel) is currently under negotiation for a second phase for 2022–2027.

[1] OHRT: One Health approach towards Rabies and Transboundary Diseases control
[2] PC-TAD: Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases for the benefit of smallholder farmers
[3] BMZ: German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

Rinderpest post-eradication

The FAO–WOAH Rinderpest Secretariat

Muhammad Javed Arshed (FAO), Kasumi Sudo (FAO), and Mariana Marrana (WOAH)

Summary of the strategy

Following the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in 2011, Members entrusted FAO and WOAH to implement measures to maintain rinderpest global freedom. The FAO–WOAH Rinderpest Secretariat and the Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) were established in 2012 to coordinate a post-eradication strategy and mitigate the risk posed by the release of rinderpest virus-containing material (RVCM) from laboratories.

Post-eradication priorities:

- Establish and monitor FAO–WOAH Rinderpest Holding Facilities (RHFs) for safe storage of the remaining RVCM stocks.
- Implement the Global Rinderpest Action Plan and keep it up to date.
- Continue to advocate for destruction and sequestration of RVCM in the remaining countries, the reduction of RVCM holdings in RHFs and the number of Category A RHFs, while keeping the RHF network active.
- Maintain a global inventory of RVCM stored in and outside RHFs.
- Expand vaccine reserves and maintain diagnostic capacity.
- Approve essential research projects relevant to the post-eradication era.
- Ensure the existence of adequate surveillance systems and follow-up on suspect cases.
- Communicate and advocate to strengthen awareness of rinderpest and the impacts of re-emergence of the disease and ensure that the communication tools remain available.

Epidemiological situation

The last case of rinderpest in the field was reported in Kenya in 2001. The disease was declared eradicated in 2011. In 2012, 36 countries were storing RVCM. Currently, RVCM is kept in five countries outside RHFs and in six countries in designated RHFs. Genetic sequences of RPV are available to the public in databases such as GenBank.

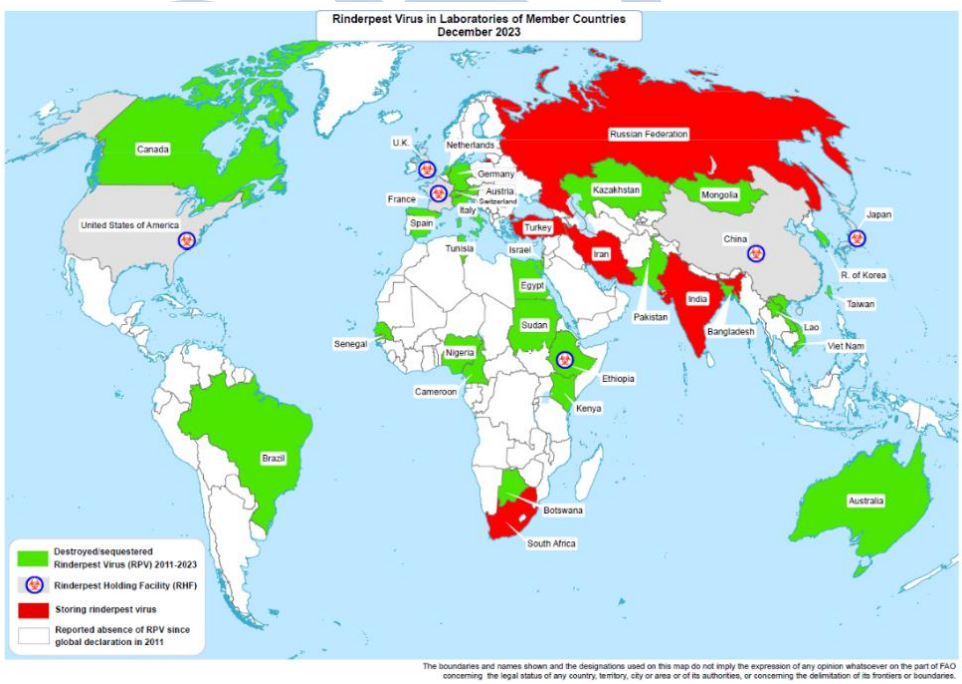

Figure 33. Rinderpest virus in laboratories of Member Countries in December 2023. Source: UN, 2021 modified with Rinderpest Virus in Laboratories of Member Countries.

Progress and challenges in the last year

FAO–WOAH joint activities:

- The number of countries storing RVCM outside RHFs was maintained at five.
- Sequence and Destroy projects have been initiated in two RHFs (China and the United States of America) to decrease their RVCM inventory and to reduce the risk of re-emergence after approval from the JAC in January 2023All RHFs were extended for a 3-year mandate in May 2023 after 5 RHFs were inspected in 2022 and the remaining 2 agreed to be inspected in 2024.
- The National Veterinary Institute (NVI), Ethiopia, was awarded extraordinary permission to produce rinderpest vaccine to replenish the reserve at the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU-PANVAC) in October 2023.
- A request from CIRAD to test on-campus cattle for exposure to RPV before their relocation was supported by the JAC and approved by the Rinderpest Secretariat in November 2023.
- Approved the applications from the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) in France for serology and PCR diagnostic on samples.
- The RHF network had its biennial meeting on 6-7 December 2023 at the WOAH HQ, in Paris, and continues to have update calls every six months.
- The membership of the JAC was reviewed by the Rinderpest Secretariat under the oversight of the GFATDs Management Committee to better reflect the challenges of the second phase of the post-eradication era.
- Sent Joint letters to two countries keeping RVCM outside the RHFs, to advocate either for destruction/sequestration of the material and/or become a RHF.
- The Rinderpest Secretariat collaborated with a member of the JAC to write a paper about Rinderpest for the journal Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice.

FAO-led activities:

- Support continued for the National Institute of Animal Health and National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NIAH-NARO) in Japan to maintain the rinderpest vaccine reserve for regional and global deployment with a letter of agreement, valid until 2026. A new batch of rinderpest vaccine (0.1 million doses) for Rinderpest Vaccine Reserve (RVR) was produced in October 2023. There are currently 0.5 million doses of manufactured vaccine and 1 million doses of antigen concentrate as rinderpest vaccine reserve in Japan.
- An FAO framework for activating the rinderpest vaccine reserve and deploying the vaccine was reviewed and feedback sent to NIAH, Japan in December 2023.
- The application from the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e Toscana (IZSLT) in Italy to become an RHF, category B was reviewed by the FAO–WOAH Rinderpest Secretariat and JAC. FAO is following up to conduct the site inspection in 2024 as the next step.
- FAO organised a meeting with the Deputy Director General for Agriculture Production, Biosecurity and Natural Resources Management, South Africa to accelerate the destruction/sequestration of RVCM and offered technical assistance with the SOP for cleaning the lab and in covering the shipping costs for the virus to AU-PANVAC.
- Finalized the rinderpest pocket guide for publication on FAO website.

WOAH-led activities

- The Rinderpest Virus Tracking System was launched in 2017 and is hosted by WOAH with access granted to FAO. This system was used in 2023 to receive the annual reports of the FAO-WOAH designated RHFs.
- WOAH organised meetings with the Delegations of India and Türkiye during the 2023 General Session to discuss options for destruction or sequestration of the RVCM held in these countries.
- A meeting with the representatives of WHO Smallpox and Polio programmes, and of EuFMD was organised on 25 October 2023 to discuss containment facilities inspection SOPs and standards.

- The Rinderpest chapter of the WOAH Terrestrial Manual is being revised by the scientists of the WOAH Reference Laboratories for Rinderpest. This is part of a routine review of standards and the review cycle takes a minimum of 2 years between the first review and endorsement of the chapter by the General Assembly of Delegates.
- The update of the GRAP which had been started in 2022 was finalised. The document is being translated into the six UN languages at FAO.

Publications

Marrana, M., Arshed, M. J., Salman, M. (*in press*). Rinderpest – A disease of the past and a present threat. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice (Submitted).*

Funding for rinderpest post-eradication

FAO

- DTRA: September 2017–September 2022; around US$ 1,243,191; global
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan: March 2021–February 2026; around US$ 285,000; global

WOAH

- DTRA: previous grant ended in December 2023 after a 3-month no-cost extension. The option period was not activated due to the preference of the donor. Rinderpest activities are expected to be included in a “broader” GF-TADs’ grant funded by the same donor, to be signed in 2024.

Avian influenza (AI) task force

Brief description of the task force and the process:

The AI task force has been established for an initial operating period for one year by the GF-TADs Management Committee (MC) on 20 April 2022. In its first year, the task force is predominantly charged with reviewing and updating the FAO/WOAH AI global prevention and control strategy, which was last updated in 2008. Another task will be the development of a proposal for a sustainable and longer-standing GF-TADs Working Group on AI, which would be charged with the follow-up of the implementation of the Strategy and related communications.

The AI Task Force is composed of two members from FAO, two members from WOAH and one member from the Global Secretariat for support. The current members are:

- FAO: Ismaila Seck (co-chair), Ihab Elmasry
- WOAH: Gounalan Pavade (co-chair), Alexandre Fediaevsky
- GFTAD Global Secretariat: Karima Ouali (support)

The AI-TF is guided by recommendations of the GF-TADs MC. The AI-TF will also consider the standards of WOAH, work with Global Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) on various technical matters and collaborate with other relevant bodies. It will collaborate with the other Quadripartite partners, WHO and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), on matters related to zoonotic influenzas and to wildlife, to share information and recommendations on risk management.

Epidemiological situation

Global outbreaks of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry and wild birds have been occurring periodically over the past 20 years, impacting different regions of the world, and leading to significant direct and indirect economic losses. Avian influenza is also a major concern for public health and has become an increasing threat to conservation and biodiversity. The transmission of avian influenza from birds to humans is usually sporadic, yet it has pandemic potential.

Since 2020, there has been a worldwide significant increase in the number of HPAI outbreaks affecting poultry and wild bird populations in all regions. The current HPAI epidemic, which began in late 2021, has been spreading through at least 73 countries and territories, and the predominant HPAI subtype involved is H5N1. In the last two years Europe and the Americas have faced the largest HPAI epidemic ever recorded.

Wild birds, including some endangered species, have also been severely affected by the disease. The consequences of avian influenza for wildlife could potentially have devastating effects on the biodiversity of our ecosystems. There is also observed persistence of H5 HPAI virus in wild birds throughout the year, indicating that the virus may have become endemic in certain wild bird populations. This implies a continuous risk of introduction to poultry, albeit with the highest risk in the autumn and winter months.

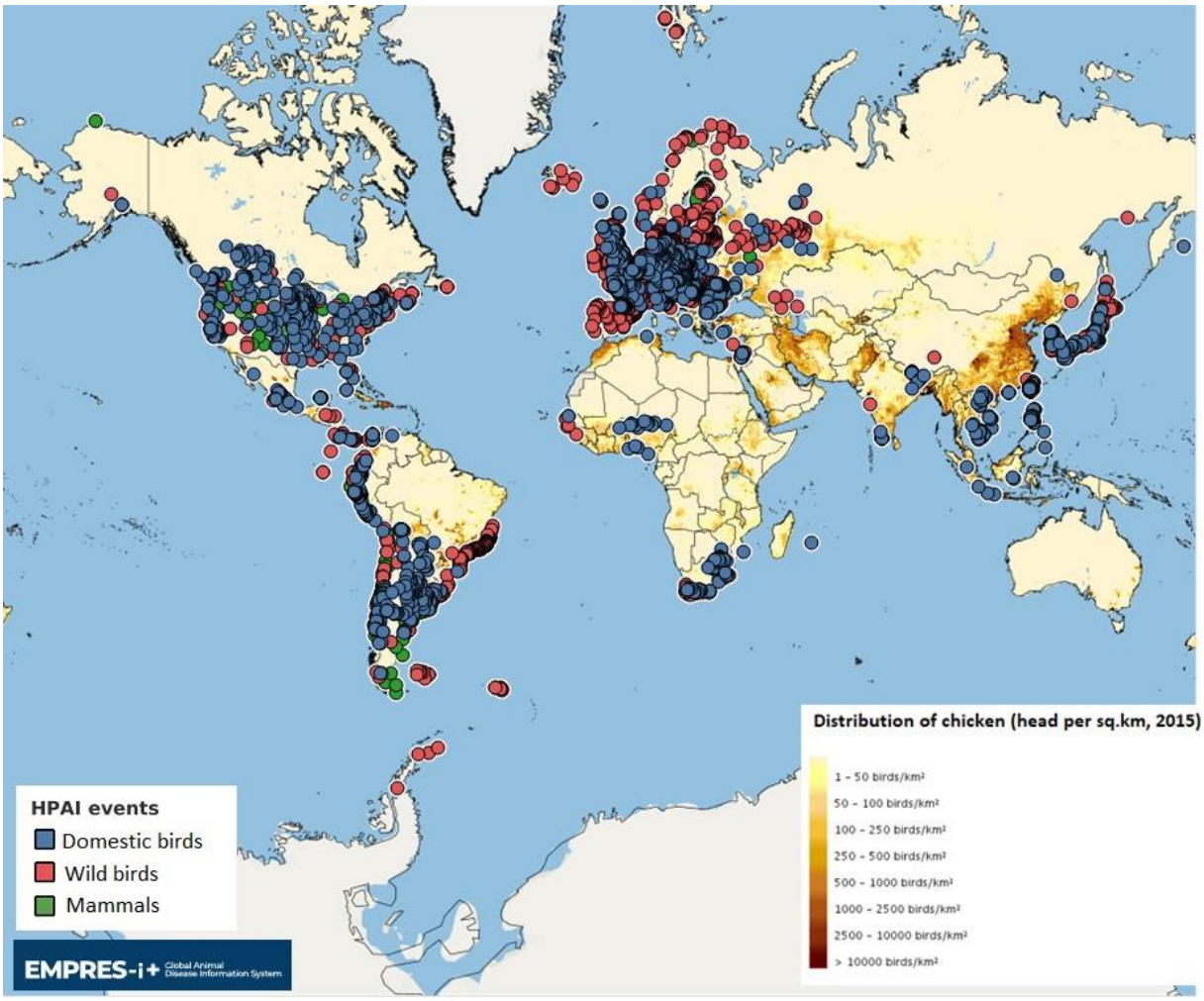

Figure 34. HPAI events in domestic and wild birds and mammals from 01 January 2023 to 11 April 2024.

Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. In: United Nations. New York. [Cited 21 September 2023]. https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF. Modified with GLW 4 data and Emergency Prevention System Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i) data, WOAH and National Authorities 2023–2024.

***GLW4:** Gridded Livestock of the World - 2015 (GLW 4), Gilbert, M., Nicolas, G., Cinardi, G. et al. Global distribution data for cattle, buffaloes, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, and ducks in 2010. Sci Data 5, 180227 (2018). https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata2018227. And also: https://www.fao.org/livestock-systems/global-distributions/en/*

Achievements

Task force ToR:

- Governance and terms of reference of the task force were drafted and finalised.
- A work plan calendar describing the activities of the task force for follow-up was finalised and is updated regularly.

Concept note for the revision of the AI prevention and control strategy:

- A concept note was drafted for the revision of the future AI global prevention and control strategy defining the scope and focus to consider, which included avian diseases/subtypes to be covered, animal species to be included and different stakeholders as the target audience.

Internal consultations on expectations of future AI global prevention and control strategy:

- Two internal consultations (22 and 29 September 2022) were conducted with regional and subregional FAO/WOAH offices and other FAO/WOAH affiliated experts who were involved in the implementation of the previous strategy to collect feedback on the expectations of the future strategy.
- The report of the internal consultations was presented to the MC meeting.

Online survey for assessment of 2008 HPAI strategy:

- A questionnaire online survey to collect feedback on the use and relevance of the 2008 HPAI strategy was drafted and finalised.
- The online survey will be sent to FAO/WOAH global, regional, and subregional offices where AI projects were implemented between 2008 and 2018, as well as to Reference Centres.

Consultancy for the revision of global avian influenza prevention control strategy:

- The overall objective of the consultancy is to design a global AI prevention and control strategy to enable FAO, WOAH and their Members and partners to synchronise and harmonise AI control and eradication activities under different epidemiological situations.
- As a first step, the terms of reference for a consultant were drafted and presented to the MC for approval and a team of four consultants to align the strategy with higher-level policies.
- The development of the new HPAI strategy for 2024 – 2033 involved evidence gathered through regional and subregional virtual consultations, online surveys, reports from Regional GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts, and inputs received from the FAO global conference on HPAI and the WOAH Animal Health Forum on avian influenza (2023). Overarching strategies like GF-TAD Global strategy, the WOAH 7th strategic plan and FAO livestock transformation policy were consulted during the formulation. Regular updates to the GF-TAD Management and Steering committee meetings led to approvals in the drafting process of the new strategy. The Strategy is set to undergo consultations and commenting process in early 2024. Following finalization of the Strategy, communication and launch options will be agreed and implemented by FAO and WOAH.

Regional coordination and capacity building activities

- Americas: Following recommendation from the standing group of experts (SGE) on HPAI created in December 2022, a technical meeting on HPAI vaccination and the second and third SGE meetings were organized in 2023 to engage stakeholders from the entire region, including from wildlife sector to exchange information on situation, control options, priorities and sharing of inter-regional experiences.
- Europe: In 2023, the Standing Group of Experts on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (SGE HPAI) was created including all 53 Members. This joint initiative involving WOAH, FAO, and the European Commission (DG SANTE) aims to enhance cooperation in preventing and controlling HPAI. The SGE HPAI will regularly convene to review prevention and control strategies, exchange epidemiological information, share best practices, and formulate a coordinated strategy based on the One Health approach.
- Asia-Pacific: The scientific network on avian influenza and other avian diseases organised a Regional Workshop for Avian Disease Prevention and Control in August 2023 in China (Rep Popular) and continued to support Members to strengthen the regional effort to control avian infectious diseases by promoting information sharing on all bacterial and viral avian diseases in addition to those described in WOAH *Terrestrial Code*.

OFFLU (WOAH-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza) and WOAH Scientific network activities

The WOAH/FAO Network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), with the OFFLU Secretariat and the OFFLU website, hosted by WOAH, played a significant role in the context of the evolving epidemiological situation. In response to the global surge of avian influenza outbreaks, the OFFLU network was active in exchanging data, publishing scientific statements to address emerging animal influenza threats, and conducting risk assessments. The network regularly contributes with WHO influenza vaccine composition meetings. The OFFLU avian influenza matching (AIM) pilot project was completed to provide information on antigenic characteristics of

circulating viruses to facilitate selection of appropriate vaccines for poultry and update of poultry vaccine antigens in places where vaccines are being used. The network released scientific statements to address emerging animal influenza threats which include statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza caused by viruses of the H5N1 subtype, avian influenza events in wildlife, mammals and cats .

The following are examples of technical documents developed to support national surveillance and control efforts:

- Avian influenza events in mammals
- Statement on HPAI caused by H5N1 subtype
- Statement on infections with avian influenza H5N1 in cats in Poland
- Avian influenza in the Latin America and Caribbean region
- Southward expansion of HPAI H5 in wildlife in South America
- Continued expansion of HPAI H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region

The OFFLU network regularly contributes with WHO influenza Vaccine Composition Meetings (VCM). The network participated in the February and September 2023 WHO VCM and provided a total of 2 619 H5, H7, and H9 avian influenza virus sequences isolated in Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. In addition, 588 H1 and H3 swine influenza virus sequences were shared. Antigenic data were generated by the haemagglutination inhibition assay using WHO Collaborating Centre and OFFLU ferret-origin reagents. The reports are available online as well as OFFLU activity report for 2023. The OFFLU proficiency testing panel for the year 2023 was received by WOAH/FAO Reference Centres and was designed to assess the capability of the laboratories to detect and characterise isolates of avian influenza. The round was coordinated by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) and conducted under their ISO 17043 accreditation. The report of the OFFLU Steering and Executive Committee meetings is available online.

FAO and WOAH conducted activities on their own contributing to the prevention and control.

Highlight on FAO activities contributing to HPAI prevention and control

Global level

Global events on AI held in 2023 by FAO

- 2 – 4 May 2023 Global consultation on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) [Link]. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and OFFLU (WOAH/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza) brought together the global scientific community to review the latest science and evidence on the disease, to support development/implementation of disease prevention and control strategies and policies and contribute to global efforts towards reducing pandemic risk. The findings of the consultation will contribute to revising the FAO-WOAH global control strategy for HPAI and developing evidence-based policies and research agendas to tackle the disease.
- A 3-day Global Technical Consultation on Strategic framework for early warning of animal health threats was held in Rome from 6 to 8 November.

Virtual trainings provided

- The FAO Virtual Learning Centres (VLC) have launched a new self-paced virtual learning course on avian influenza (AI). The course aims to raise awareness of AI and to develop capacity on its detection and prevention. This introductory course is intended to be useful for veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and others working in the poultry industries. There are six short modules (15-20 minutes each), which can be used as a ready-reference resource as needed. It supports multiple platforms including smartphones and tablets. [link]
- FAO VLC developed a Regional Avian Influenza Preparedness Course for East Africa. [Link]
- FAO VLC launched the avian influenza preparedness course in Spanish for animal health professionals from Latin American and Caribbean countries on 25 April [link] and a regional emergency online page for remote field assistance has been created on the VLCs platform, providing multiple AI resources and a discussion forum.
- A webinar on HPAI in Central Asia and the Caucasus took place in May 2023 [link]
- FAO VLCs for Europe and Central Asia run a 4-week avian influenza preparedness online course in Russian language in May 2023 for Ukrainian.

- FAO Regional office for Latin America and Caribbean (RLC) organized and facilitated a webinar on "The future of HPAI in Latin America and the Caribbean: Impact of the new wave of migratory birds" on 31 October 2023 with various experts.

Regional and country level

- FAO ECTAD programme that supports countries' capacity development and safe and timely response to priority zoonotic disease outbreaks has been extended to cover 49 countries globally in 2023, included some new countries in Americas, Central Asia and Pacific. Preparation work and coordination started in new countries while countries already linked to ECTAD were supported with various needed activities.

Supporting outbreak responses

- In January 2023, FAO started an emergency regional technical cooperation programme (TCP) project TCP/RLA/3908 covering eight countries namely: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); also provided Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) funding to support HPAI control in Argentina, Costa Rica and Cuba. Countries under the two projects together with FAO RLC developed guidance documents for the region including HPAI epidemiological monitoring, poultry culling, biosafety/biosecurity and surveillance in backyard poultry, wild bird surveillance, etc. In Asia, Since October 2023, Cambodia confirmed H5N1 HPAI in birds in seven provinces, while nine human cases reported. FAO Cambodia is collaborating National Animal Health and Production Research Institute (NAHPRI)/the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC), WHO and other partners, participated in joint risk assessment, and providing technical assistance, awareness materials for distribution, and some PPE. [link1, link2]
- In Indonesia, the IVM (influenza virus monitoring) network meeting was conducted on 12-13 November in Yogyakarta to update and discuss the Avian Influenza virus strain currently circulating, as well as to update on newly detected H5N1 HPAI clade 2.3.4.4.b, and the follow up surveillance and response needed.
- In November 2023, FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) organized a 3-day hybrid regional consultation on environmental influenza surveillance.
- In Ukraine, FAO implemented a project including online training on AI diagnostics, laboratory capacity assessment using Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT), AI surveillance assessment of the current situation using the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET) with a focus on AI, procurement for laboratory diagnosis, and awareness raising among farmers in high-risk areas.

Supporting laboratory capacity development

- FAO ECTAD West and Central Africa (WCA) supported Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo in collaboration with HQ in sending samples to the reference laboratory (IZSVe-Italy) for further analysis and sequencing to help tracing the origin of the viruses and evaluate their genetic properties.
- FAO ECTAD regional offices in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) supports procurement of reagents (primers, probes, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) kits, extraction kits) and consumables in support of timely diagnostic testing and to enhance preparedness in Ethiopia, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda through USAID funded GHSA programme.
- FAO ECTAD ESA and WCA have been coordinating annual Proficiency testing schemes supported by USAID for AIV diagnosis at national and sub-national level since 2008, through Letter of Agreement signed between FAO and WOAH reference laboratory (IZSVe- Italy) prepared by ECTAD HQ. FAO ECTAD also support sequencing to help trace the origin of the viruses and evaluate their genetic properties /zoonotic potential.
- FAO ECTAD Egypt supported the Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics (CLEVB), Egypt to perform a study to evaluate all available/marketed avian influenza vaccines (22 commercial vaccines) against the predominant circulating avian influenza strains in Egypt isolated in 2023.
- FAO ECTAD Indonesia supported participation of four animal health laboratories in a regional proficiency testing for avian and swine diseases being organized by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP).

- FAO ECTAD Viet Nam and the Australian Center for Disease Preparedness (ADCP) visited laboratories in northern Viet Nam from 20 to 30 November 2023 and in the southern Viet Nam from 7 to 20 January 2024 to: re-assess DAH laboratories using Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT); provide backstopping support on quality assurance and quality management; and develop a road map for ISO 17043 accreditation for NCVD to provide AI proficiency testing.

Support provided for socio-economic analyses

- In Eastern Africa, FAO ECTAD ESA supported Kenya, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe enhance biosecurity in poultry farms which contributes to minimizing HAPI incursion. Poultry value chain risk assessment along the entire poultry value chain is planned in 10 countries namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.
- In West Africa, FAO ECTAD WCA has supported poultry value chain studies and the development of biosecurity manuals for poultry farms and live bird markets in Togo and Benin under the USAID funded project "Emergency assistance for prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in selected Countries in Africa".
- The Outbreak Costing Tool (OutCosT) to estimate the cost of outbreaks and their control is being adapted to poultry diseases by FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU).

Support for coordination and policy framework

- FAO ECTAD Egypt supported the development of National One Health strategic framework which has been endorsed by the Government.
- The regional project "Emergency assistance for prevention
- and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in selected Countries in West Africa" to ensure the effective prevention and sustainable control of HPAI in Benin, Gambia, and Togo.
- FAO ECTAD Nigeria, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), supported risk assessment for HPAI spread in the country in April 2023.
- FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), in collaboration with Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held a (hybrid) consultive workshop on the prevention and control of High pathogenicity avian influenza in West Africa from 30 May to 2 June 2023.
- In Sierra Leone, poultry diseases due to poor biosecurity account for more than 42% of the annual mortality which negatively impact on improvement efforts in the poultry sector, and uncontrolled use of antimicrobials in commercial poultry enterprises increasing the risk of antimicrobial resistance to humans. FAO ECTAD supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to develop guidelines for Infection Prevention and Appropriate Antimicrobial Use in the poultry sector. The guidelines were validated in a workshop held on 9 -10 August 2023.
- A joint technical meeting on HPAI was held with countries under emergency TCP and Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) projects on 12-14 December 2023 [link], the emergency TCP project has been extended till June 2024. Under this TCP project, FAO has facilitated bi-weekly meetings between veterinary services of 10 countries in the region to discuss and exchange experiences on several HPAI topics including epidemiological updates, control measures, surveillance, economic impacts and risk communication.
- A joint risk assessment (JRA) for H5N1 transmission to humans using customized tripartite JRA tools was conducted on 19-20 October 2023 in Phu Tho Province, Viet Nam where a human case was reported in 2022.

Support to enhance emergency preparedness

- FAO ECTAD in the Philippines, in collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry, organized a Coordination Meeting and Simulation Exercise for Animal Disease (Avian Influenza and foot-and-mouth disease) Emergencies for Mindanao Cluster in December 2023. The meeting specifically discussed the Philippine's AI Vaccination Guidelines to seek inputs and agreement of veterinarians and animal health workers at the meeting.
- FAO ECTAD at regional and country (Peru, Guatemala) levels are supporting activities to respond to HPAI outbreaks e.g. simulations exercises, HPAI diagnostic trainings, information materials.

Virtual training, webinar and professional trainings

- FAO VLC launched the avian influenza preparedness course in Spanish for animal health professionals from Latin American and Caribbean countries on 25 April [link] and a regional emergency online page

for remote field assistance has been created on the VLCs platform, providing multiple AI resources and a discussion forum.
- A webinar on HPAI in Central Asia and the Caucasus took place in May 2023 [link]
- FAO VLCs for Europe and Central Asia run a 4-week avian influenza preparedness online course in Russian language in May 2023 for Ukrainian.
- FAO RLC organized and facilitated a webinar on "The future of HPAI in Latin America and the Caribbean: Impact of the new wave of migratory birds" on 31 October 2023 with various experts.

Publications

- The Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds released the statement on "H5N1 High pathogenicity avian influenza in wild birds - Unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs" on 11 July 2023. [link]
- The list of wild bird and mammalian species which have been infected with H5Nx HPAI [link]
- Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds H5N1 High pathogenicity avian influenza in wild birds - Unprecedented conservation impacts and urgent needs
- FAO Report: Global consultation on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) 2-4 May 2023, Rome
- FAO Veterinary laboratory testing protocols for priority zoonotic diseases in Africa
- FAO rapid qualitative risk assessment for H5 HPAI introduction in Central and South America and the Caribbean (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/ar/c/CC4720EN)

Highlight on WOAH activities contributing to HPAI prevention and control

In light of the ongoing global avian influenza crisis, WOAH hosted its first Animal Health Forum (AHF), fully dedicated to the disease during WOAH's 90th General Session. The Animal Health Forum 'Policy to Action: The case of avian influenza – Reflections for change' provided an opportunity for open discussions among Delegates, subject-matter experts and relevant stakeholders on how best to address current challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza. The Technical Item titled 'Strategic Challenges in the Global Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza' presented at the event set the stage for the AHF, and WOAH Members adopted the Resolution N.28 served as a basis for shaping future avian influenza control activities. The Resolution underscores the importance of Members respecting and implementing WOAH international standards to effectively combat avian influenza.

A two-year Resolution N.28 framework (June 2023 – May 2025) was designed in consultation with key WOAH stakeholders to define the activities, outputs and expected outcomes to implement the recommendations of the adopted resolution and ensure alignment with the future GF-TAD AI Global strategy.

The WOAH avian influenza scientific network continued to deliver concrete outputs that contribute to the mitigation of risks posed by zoonotic animal influenza viruses to public and animal health. The WOAH scientific network, FAO, and WHO are in regular communication to share public health and animal health data so that risk assessments are continually updated on issues related to the animal–human interface, including the publication of a rapid risk assessment of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b viruses and human infection with H5N1 in Cambodia.

- *HPAI notifications and situation reports*

WOAH continues to monitor the notification of the occurrence of avian influenza through WAHIS and generates reports that provide an update of the avian influenza situation at both global and regional levels. The documents briefly present the key risks driving current events – how the strains are interacting with hosts (both wild birds and poultry, and sometimes humans) and the environment (seasonality, livestock husbandry systems, ecosystems) and how the events may evolve in the months ahead. The production frequency of these situation reports is largely driven by the number and severity of notifications for avian influenza received in WAHIS.

- *Advocacy and communication*

WOAH has developed several videos with experts to raise awareness on avian influenza and address key questions. These videos are available here and were disseminated across social media channels throughout the year. Articles were also written on the topic and shared online:

- Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade
- Avian influenza: understanding new dynamics to better combat the disease
- Avian influenza: why strong public policies are vital - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health https://www.woah.org/en/egg-prices-on-the-rise-the-effects-of-animal-diseases/
- Tackling avian influenza: the role of Veterinary Services

Regional priority TADs

Regional priorities of the GF-TADs for Africa

Websites : Link 1 and Link 2

Contagious Bovine PleuroPneumonia

FAO-WOAH joint activities

Over two weeks (6 – 15 June 2023) and six online sessions, the GF-TADs for Africa Secretariat organized the inaugural meeting of the *standing group of experts* (SGE) for CBPP, following the adoption in 2022 of the terms of reference for the Africa-region by the 11th Regional Steering Committee (RSC-11) of the GF-TADs for Africa. The disease was identified as one of the 5 priority diseases under the GF-TADs Regional Strategy 2021 – 2025, adopted in October 2021. The SGE-CBPP for Africa was established with a core group of 4 founding Members Countries drawn from Central (Chad), Eastern (Somalia), Southern (Zambia) and Western Africa (Nigeria), with the aim to progressively extend to more countries. The online meeting was attended by 45 individuals over the 6 sessions. The meeting was attended by the four CVOs and WOAH Delegates, together with other participants. The agenda was designed, over several weeks of preparatory meetings with partner organizations and identified experts, to cover four pillars:

- Governance aspects, to do with the establishment and operation of the SGE itself.
- General introductions to the disease, reporting, international standards and country situations
- Presentations and discussions with a focus on technology
- Presentations and discussions with a focus on policy

The final discussion culminated in the identification of a number of priority topics, to be tackled in subsequent meetings, as intended in the terms of reference of the SGE. These are:

- Strategy
- Surveillance
- Diagnosis
- Vaccines
- Policy
- Research

The focus of the next meeting will therefore be 'strategy', including the development and validation of strategic plans at various levels of governance (national, clusters of neighboring countries, sub-regions, the continent and/or the international community), for higher prioritization of the disease, both technically and financially. The meeting will likely be held as a face-to-face meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, jointly hosted by the Government of Zambia and the COMESA Secretariat. The report of the inaugural meeting is available here.

Regional priorities of the GF-TADs for the Americas

Websites: Link 1 and Link 2

No specific activities on regional priority TADs rabies and new world screwworm during that period.

Regional priorities of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific

Websites: Link 1 and Link 2

Lumpy Skin disease

FAO-WOAH joint activities

LSD was included First South Asia transboundary animal diseases coordination meeting for peste des petits ruminants, foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease organised on 8-12 May 2023 in Bhutan, allowing for good exchanges between Members and internal experts on the complex epidemiological situation and the formulation of tailored recommendations for the subregion.

The 4th LSD Coordination Meeting for South-East Asia was held back-to-back with the meeting of the Core Group and Advisory Group for the development of ALPCS on 2830 November 2023. The 4th LSD Coordination Meeting

reviewed the LSD situation, assessed progress of LSD prevention and control in South-East Asia and to discuss the key challenges faced by the Members in LSD prevention and control. A series of brainstorming sessions were held to define problems, goal, objectives, outcomes and outputs of the draft strategy. Following the LSD coordination meeting, the Meeting of the Core Group and Advisory Group discussed and finalised the draft theory of change (TOC) and an outline for the ALPCS.

FAO leaded activities

FAO RAP continued with a programmatic approach using multiple resources particularly on ASF as listed below:

- Continue regular coordination among HQ/region/countries as well as with other implementing partners to synergize efforts for ASF.
- RAP supported WOAH SRR to develop ASEAN ASF strategy. Plus, using other complementary projects, RAP supported for some countries contingency plan/SOPs.
- At the regional level, overall, 1500 animal health officials were trained for ASF detection and response. Some of the trainings were supported by the DTRA project. In Aug 2023, RAP conducted SimEx for ASF outbreak response where RAP trained 28 people from 11 countries. This SimEx was cost-shared with other complementary projects. After the regional exercise, countries are utilizing further the materials: Malaysia with their own fund used SimEx model for rabies and Solomon Island under TCP ran SimEx using same material for their ASF preparedness. Further in-country level of SimEx supported by DTRA funds for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand.
- FAO RAP worked with TAFS forum to build private sector engagement mechanism.
- Some works have been conducted on capacity building: online course on value chain analysis.
- Together with DLD (department of livestock development, Thailand), pig production system was analysed on value chain mapping, economic analysis and risk analysis along the value chain which became a good baseline for setting up the national plan on ASF control.
- Pilot project was conducted by Mahidol university (FAO reference centre for wildlife) on risk of wild boar and ASF risk in Thailand and GMS (Greater Mekong subregion).

WOAH leaded activities

A LSD coordination meeting was organised for East Asia as a side event of CVO forum in July 2023

Regional priorities of the GF-TADs for Europe

Websites: Link 1 and Link 2

Lumpy Skin disease

FAO-WOAH joint activities

FAO, WOAH and the EU DG SANTE organised the SGE on LSD-12 held in March 2023 recognising the good experience of South-East Europe Members to tackle LSD decided to develop similar approach in Caucasus and Central Asia countries in the future.

FAO leaded activities

In 2023, FAO REU organised trainings for three countries (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan) including simulation exercises, surveillance and vaccination, laboratory diagnostic and provided some reagent.

A 4-week tutored course (15 hours of study time) was developed by HSA and FAO REU VLC in 2022 with primary audience for veterinarians (public & private), this was delivered in Russian language from May – June 2023 with 150 participants from 14 countries

The FAO Field manual for veterinarians on LSD for private and official vets, para-professionals and lab diagnosticians is available in English, Chinese , Macedonian , Romanian , Serbian, Ukrainian , Albanian, Turkish and Russian

The FAO Guidelines for livestock vaccination campaigns for veterinary services is available in: English, Russian and Azerbaijani

WOAH leaded activities

In a collaborative endeavour aimed at fostering knowledge exchange among regional stakeholders, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and Sciensano, the EU Reference Laboratory on LSD, jointly organized an impactful online seminar focused on laboratory diagnostics and vaccines for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) on December 13, 2023. This event served as a crucial follow-up to the recommendations from the last SGE on LSD-12 held in March 2023: Exploring Lumpy Skin Disease - WOAH – Europe

Rabies (surveillance oral vaccination of wildlife)

FAO-WOAH joint activities

FAO, WOAH and the EU DG SANTE organised the SGE RAB5 - 5th meeting of the Standing Groups of Experts on Rabies for Europe which took place on July 4th, 2023, with over 40 participants present from 14 countries and three international organizations.

The main objective of this new Standing Group of Experts is to coordinate the oral rabies vaccination activities in wild carnivores with the overall goal to accelerate the final eradication of rabies, primarily in the Balkan sub-region.

Regional priorities of the GF-TADs for the Middle East

Websites: Link 1 and Link 2

No specific activities were conducted on RVF and Brucellosis during that period.

Annex. Follow-up on the recommendations of the GSC13

Source: FAO and WOAH, 2023 13th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS). Recommendations of the virtual meeting, 16-17 January 2023, Rome. https://www.fao.org/3/cc5933en/cc5933en.pdf

	Recommendation	Status & progress	Comment
Recommendation 1	For the GF-TADs Management Committee (MC) to focus on the follow up of recommendations of previous Global Steering Committee (GSC) meetings that are critical to achieve the outputs of the current GF-TADs strategy and encourage that most recommendations of GSC be linked with these outputs and are actionable.	Ongoing, 50%	Regular monitoring and update on milestone, outputs and follow up of recommendations done
Recommendation 2	For the MC, to utilise a result monitoring framework, promoting sharing of experiences between regions and disease working groups in following up the GSC recommendations and the implementation of the GF-TADs strategy.	Ongoing, 25%	M&E indicators being completed and started to be monitored.
Recommendation 3	For the MC to strengthen collaboration, coordination, advocacy, and communication among the GF-TADs FAO and WOAH secretariat teams at global and regional levels, assist resource mobilisation, and support the development of joint workplans optimizing resources.	Ongoing, 50%	message sent to region; development of procedures is organised
Recommendation 4	That FAO and WOAH promote capacity development in a transversal manner to address prevention and control of TADs.	Ongoing, 25%	contacts taken; meetings and interactions to be organised
Recommendation 5	Welcoming the establishment of the PFP, the MC supports the PFP workplan based on the three main work streams related to i) mapping of partners that could engage in TADs control, ii) development of advocacy messages and iii) regionally based financing solutions for priority TADs control strategies.	Ongoing, 50%	workstream works ongoing; WS1 made a good progress; WS2 on advocacy started; WS3 on financing and resource mobilization started.
Recommendation 6	Acknowledging the recommendations from the PFP on the PPR Blueprint, for the Regional Steering Committees coordinate with the relevant geographical levels to harmonise programmes and engage in resource mobilisation.	Ongoing, 50%	AU-IBAR is coordinating for Africa, South Asia meeting and West Eurasia meeting organised in April/May
Recommendation 7	FAO and WOAH to give increased attention to the considerations of local value chain stakeholders in their disease control programmes.	Ongoing, 25%	deliverables to be clarified

Recommendation 8	For the MC, considering the PFP recommendations, to give increased support to regional and subregional Public-Private Partnerships using regular engagement (including through online means).	Ongoing, 25%	Work thought involvement of PFP members started; need to be strengthened
Recommendation 9	For regional steering committees to identify main drivers for the introduction and spread of TADs based on risk assessments as needed (sectorial or TADs specific).	Ongoing, 25%	Regional risk-assessments being done initiated at HQs level; however, this to be initiated and conducted by the regions. The GS to remind the regions.
Recommendation 10	FAO and WOAH to support regions and sub-regions in their essential capacities to control TADs to undertake regular disease risk assessments and to develop early warning frameworks, prevention, preparedness, emergency response action plan commensurate to the risks, as an essential component of regional strategies.	Ongoing, 25%	Being done at various levels of FAO and WOAH.
Recommendation 11	Regional secretariats ensure there is regular risk communication to all relevant stakeholders at a frequency and modality that will be decided by the RSCs and the GF-TADs MC.	Ongoing, 25%	Should be reminded/done at RSC meetings
Recommendation 12	Disease working groups/secretariats to report upon identification, actions taken and achievements of synergies between TADs-specific strategies, and to valorise activities and projects conducted by FAO, WOAH or their partners that can contribute to the objectives of the TADs-specific strategies.	Ongoing, 50%	Implemented in several regional/disease-specific events
Recommendation 13	Regional strategies to include a monitoring framework indicating key areas of national, regional support and partnering indicators based on guidance and templates from the Global Secretariat, by the end of the first semester of 2023.	Ongoing, 25%	To be followed with the regions
Recommendation 14	FAO, WOAH and their regional GF-TADs partners to harmonise the process of developing workplans by sharing them for better exchange of information across regions.	Ongoing, 50%	Workplan has been developed and shared; the uptake and updating the shared workplan to be followed and conducted.