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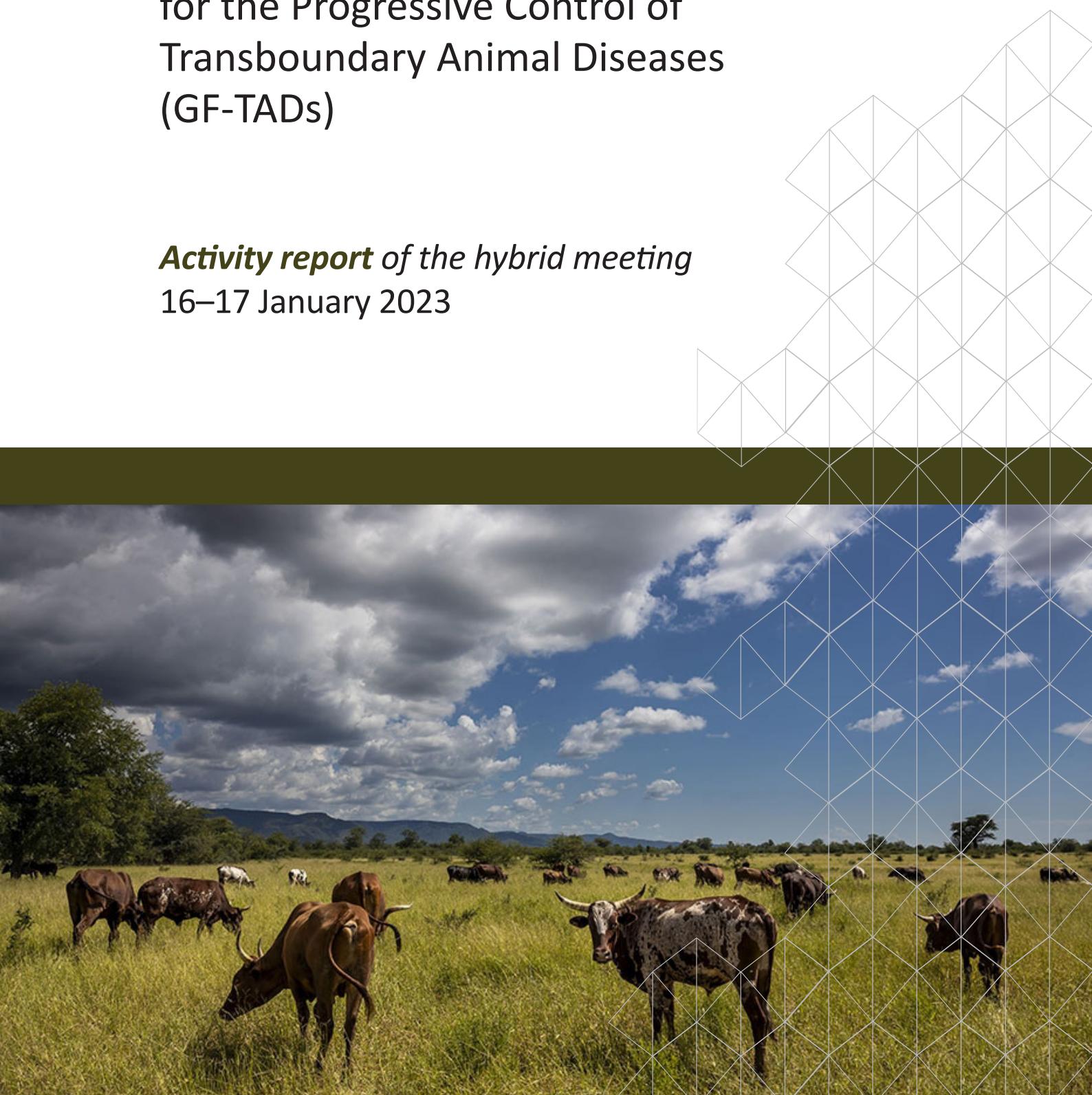


World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

13th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)

Activity report of the hybrid meeting

16–17 January 2023



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Foreword

This report presents:

- The main activities of initiatives to control several global priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) since the meeting of the 12th Global Steering Committee (GSC12) in November and December 2021;
- A concise summary of the events carried out under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) since GSC12. It focuses on three main items:
 - The follow-up on the recommendations of the action plan determined since GSC12;
 - The main activities at the global level from the Management Committee and the Global Secretariat;
 - The main activities at the regional level from the Regional Steering Committees and the Regional Secretariats.



Activities at the global level

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The GF-TADs Management Committee is the decision-making body of 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 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 chaired by a co-chair from FAO (Keith Sumption) and a co-chair from WOAH (Jean-Philippe Dop). The Management Committee is composed of a WOAH delegation and an FAO delegation, both composed of three members (FAO: Dr Sumption, Dr Dhingra, Dr Minjauw; WOAH: Dr Dop, Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Dr Mapitse). The two co-chairs are also delegation leaders. The Global Secretariat prepares and moderates the Management Committee meetings.

Since the 12th Global Steering Committee meeting, six Management Committee (MC) meetings have taken place (MC39: 12 December 2021, MC40: 2 February 2022, MC41: 20 April 2022, MC42: 2–3 June 2022, MC43: 21 September 2022, MC44: 7 December 2022). The management committee, in 2022, led the activities related to establishment of a GF-TADs Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP).

GLOBAL SECRETARIAT

The GF-TADs Global Secretariat 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 (acting global coordinator, FAO), Alexandre Fediaevsky (regional coordinator, WOAH), José Urdaz (FAO) and Karima Ouali (FAO). José Urdaz ends his work at FAO in January 2023. It is expected that he will be replaced by another FAO expert in 2023. The Global Secretariat meets weekly and coordinates the day-to-day activities of the GF-TADs. The Global Secretariat also supervises the global GF-TADs website and GF-TADs publications with the support of the website coordinator Ms Cecilia Murguia (information management and web officer, FAO).

Among the coordination activities carried out on a weekly basis, the following outcomes were achieved:

- A SharePoint was created and made available for all disease working groups (DWGs) and regions, and governing bodies, in which all the documents can be shared and worked on in coordination.
- Consultation with DWGs and regions for the development of a workplan that was drafted and discussed in a physical global secretariat (GS) meeting in September 2022.
- Drafting of indicators and result framework for the M&E strategy.
- Translation of the [GF-TADs Strategy 2021–2025](#) to four pages of documentation in six languages, and presentation at various occasions and meetings.
- Initial budget estimation of resources needed by GF-TADs is ongoing.
- The mapping of available tools in support of the DWGs for TADs control.
- Support to the Diseases working groups, the regional steering groups, the financing and partnership 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 communication coordinators.
- Budgeting of PPR GEP III was conducted by Bouda Ahmadi, working closely with the PPR Secretariat.

The follow-up on recommendations adopted during the GSC12 is presented in Annex II.

Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP)

The Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP) of the GF-TADs was established in 2022 after publication of an open call and a selection process that was conducted by the global secretariat under the supervision of the Management Committee. 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 first meeting of the panel took place on 13 May 2022 and since then in total the PFP have met five times. In the first meeting the

panel elected the chair and vice chair of the PFP (Dr Carolin Schumacher and Professor Cheikh Ly). The panel identified three main work streams: WS1. Ecosystem mapping and strategic partner engagement; WS2. TADs communication and advocacy; and WS3. Funding system mapping and financing strategy development. The panel have developed a skill matrix reflecting the expertise of the members and their geographical regions of interest. The PFP, as one of their first tasks, reviewed and provided the management committee with their views and guidance on the Global Eradication Programme of PPR Phase II (GEP II). The panel is developing an action plan and a timetable for their activities in 2023 based on the regional and global priorities identified by regional steering committees (RSCs) and global steering committee (GSC) and MC.

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:

1. 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.
2. Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF.
3. 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 (current chair), Caitlin Holley, Charmaine Chng

- FAO: Andriy Rozstalnyy (previous chair), Akiko Kamata, Charles Bebay

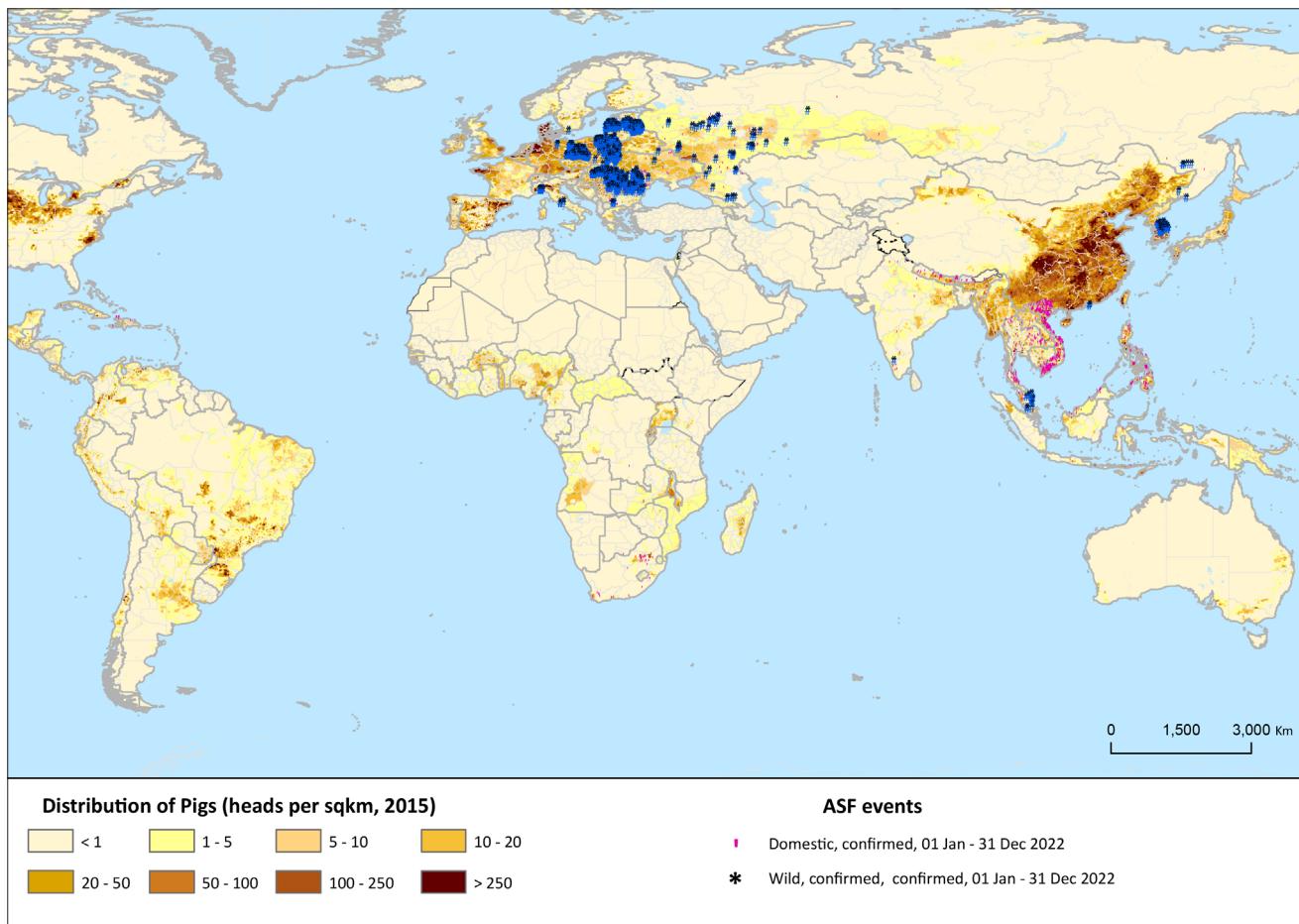
The Working Group is supported by the GF-TADs Global Secretariat and reports to the GF-TADs Management Committee. Strategic decisions are made in consultation with and under guidance from the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee. The progress of the Global Initiative will be monitored through a dedicated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework that is currently being developed with the support of M&E experts, assisted by an IT tool. It is expected to be fully functional in 2023. 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 January 2022, ASF genotype II was notified on the Italian mainland after around 40 years of absence. In 2022 alone, three countries reported the first occurrence of ASF: North Macedonia, Thailand and Nepal. 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.

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. Detection of chronic infection caused by genotype I in domestic pigs in China (specifically Shandong and Henan) is a concerning development. This situation requires enhanced surveillance to detect genotypes I and II as well as low virulence strains that are reported to be circulating in Asia. Efforts are being made to prevent the use of unauthorised vaccines.

FIGURE 1. African swine fever cases in domestic pigs and wild boar from 1 January to 31 December 2022



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. *Map of the World*. United Nations. Cited 22 August 2022. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF>; Pig density: Gridded Livestock of the World (GLW)4; ASF outbreak data: FAO EMPRES-i, WOAH World Animal Health Information System and National Authorities.

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. 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) have proven 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. SGE-ASFs have been established in [Europe](#), [Asia and the Pacific](#), and the [Americas](#) in recent years. In 2022, the inaugural SGE meeting for [Africa](#) was held in March, where the region discussed key challenges in ASF control and identified priorities for subsequent meetings, including the understanding of

production features and value chains in Africa, strengthening biosecurity along the value chain and enhancing surveillance and diagnostic capabilities for ASF control.

Following the incursion of ASF into the Americas region, activities under the [Regional Framework for the containment and prevention of African swine fever \(ASF\) spread in the Americas](#) were organised to better prepare the continent against ASF. Risk management activities and training were conducted, informed by the findings of a [qualitative risk assessment](#) for ASF virus introduction for the Caribbean, South, Central and North Americas covering 35 countries/territories. A series of capacity building activities were also organised with regional partners.

In Asia and the Pacific, to better support national veterinary services in the prevention and control of ASF in smallholder pig farming, a series of guidelines covering [monitoring and surveillance](#), [culling and disposal](#), [farm biosecurity](#), [slaughtering and restocking](#), and a [clean chain approach](#) were developed. Following the

recommendations of the SGE-ASF for the region to recognise the role of wild pigs in the epidemiology of ASF and the impact of ASF on conservation of native pig species, a report was published that reviewed current knowledge of the ecology, distribution and role of wild pigs in porcine disease epidemiology. The report also made recommendations on ways to manage populations of wild pigs, their interface with domestic pigs and other actions that will contribute to the prevention and control of ASF in Asia and the Pacific. A regional laboratory meeting for ASF was also organised in November to share information on current diagnostic tools, surveillance activities and research updates.

Similarly, in Europe, several activities were conducted to assist countries with the prevention and control of ASF at the domestic pig–wild boar interface, including development of a [template for a control and eradication plan for ASF in wild boar](#) and publication of the [second edition](#) of the *Handbook on ASF in wild boar, ecology and biosecurity*, providing insights on surveillance and disease management in wild boar.

In collaboration with partners, including ASF Reference Laboratories, key outputs included the development of an [overview of point-of-care tests to guide](#) field testing for ASF, allowing rapid diagnosis and response to outbreaks in endemic situations, continuous monitoring of emerging low virulence ASFV strains and updating the laboratory algorithm manual to guide the detection of these strains. As vaccines for ASF are in the development pipeline, the ASF Working Group continues to monitor the development of these vaccines, and efforts are underway to develop guidelines on the manufacture of safe and efficacious ASF vaccines, as well as guidance to countries on vaccination strategies.

Major challenges to ASF disease control include competing priorities (ASF is not a zoonotic disease), a lack of resources among Veterinary Services to detect and control the disease early (including surveillance, diagnostics and compensation for a ‘stamping-out’ approach), low biosecurity in pig production and along the value chain (e.g. free-ranging pigs, swill feeding, home-based slaughter, sale of contaminated pork), involvement of wild pig and boar populations, illicit vaccines, emergence of low virulence strains and a lack of tools to monitor strain evolution. The [second annual report](#) of the Global Initiative was published with the aim to highlight the progress achieved in 2021. It describes the key output indicators under the three main objectives of the Initiative. Progress is illustrated by showcasing some of the activities conducted in 2021.

Going forward, the ASF Working Group has identified priority areas that will lead the work for 2023 and aims to continue advancing on priorities from 2022. Specific activities include the provision of guidelines on ASF control in resource-limited settings, the development of international standards on safe and efficacious ASF vaccines and guidance on vaccination strategies, organising a webinar on risk communication and the design of risk communication materials for ASF targeting different stakeholders along the value chain.

Publications

- WOAH and FAO.** 2021. Global Control of African swine fever. A GF-TADs Initiative – 2020 annual report. Paris and Rome. <https://doi.org/10.20506/ASF.3011>
- WOAH and FAO.** 2021. Stop African swine fever (ASF): Public and private partnering for success. Report of the online event on 14–28 June 2021. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.20506/ASF.3248>



Global Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control Strategy

THE GF-TADS FMD WORKING GROUP

The GF-TADs Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Working Group 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 current members 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 South East Asia, with the O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e lineage dominant. The lineage has spread outside the core countries in Pool 1 to Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Russia to the north, and was notified in Indonesia in May 2022. The latter incursion was a very significant event as the country had maintained FMD-free status since 1986. Serotype Asia-1 has rarely been detected since 1998, except for outbreaks in Viet Nam (2006) and Myanmar (2017).

Pool 2 (South Asia): Serotypes O, A and Asia-1 are circulating in South Asia, where the dominant lineage is O/ME-SA/Ind2001. A new lineage, O/ME-SA/SA-2018, is emerging with cases detected in Sri Lanka and India and spreading to Pool 3 (detected in the United Arab Emirates).

Pool 3 (West Eurasia): Serotypes O, A and Asia-1 are endemic in West Eurasia. Currently the predominant strains are A/ASIA/Iran-05 and O ME-SA PanAsia-2, of which the ANT-10 lineage has caused an increased number of outbreaks in Jordan, Palestine and Israel. Field trials in Jordan and Israel are underway to evaluate FMD vaccines against this lineage.

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 and Algeria. 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. It remains challenging to collect good-quality samples from this region. Network laboratories have implemented novel approaches using nucleic acid recovery from lateral-flow devices as well as RNA transfection methods to characterise the FMD viruses causing outbreaks and to fill gaps in surveillance.

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). This is the first detection of serotype O in the region in approximately 20 years, and warrants serious consideration as the livestock in these countries will be 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 and SAT3 outbreaks in Free State, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North-West Provinces. Finally, Botswana reported an outbreak of SAT2 in an FMD-free zone in August 2022.

Pool 7 (South America): Except for Venezuela, there have been no suspected cases of FMD in South America during 2020–2021.

For further details, see:

1. [WAHIS Reports](#)
2. Quarterly and [country reports \(Detection and Serotyping, Genotyping and Vaccine matching reports\) produced by the FAO World Reference Laboratory for FMD](#)

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE LAST YEAR

Achievements

Global coordination

There have been two 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

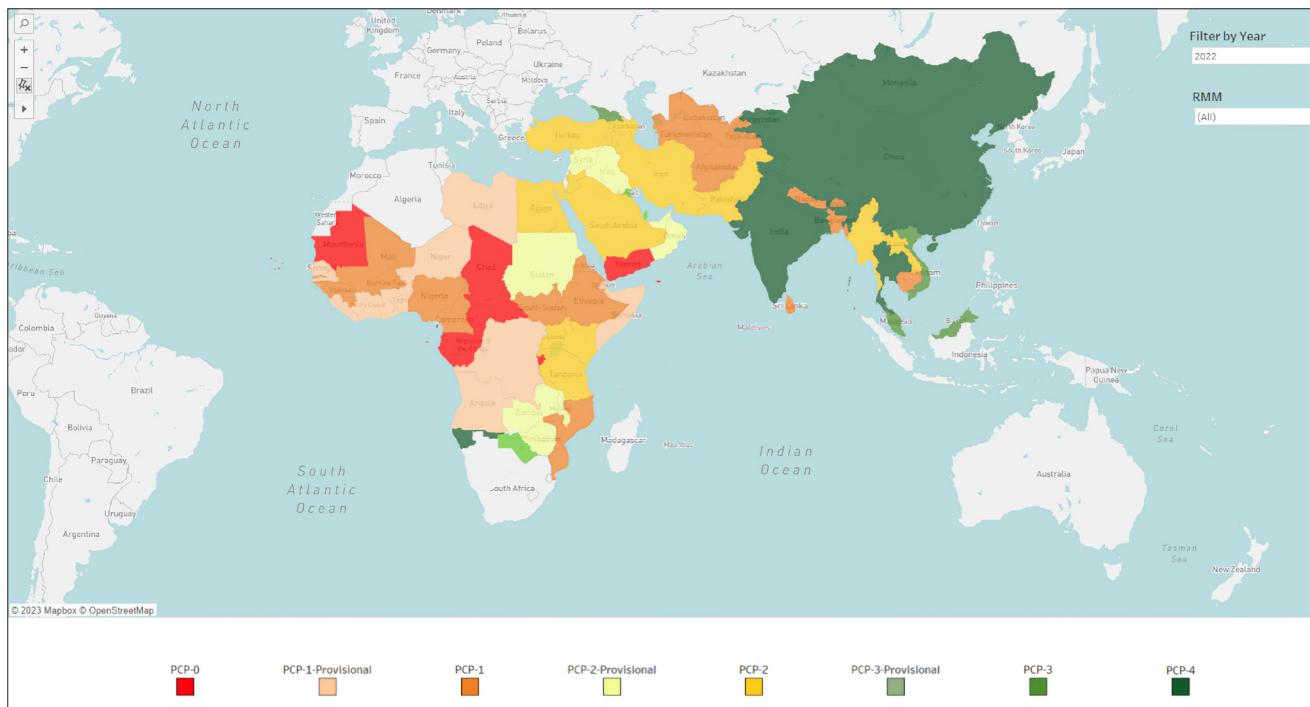
other relevant stakeholders involved in implementing FMD control initiatives. Key objectives are to exchange experiences, facilitate coordination, align the regional FMD control initiatives and develop a harmonised five-year global FMD action plan. During the [first meeting](#), it became clear that there are common themes critical to FMD control in all endemic regions, including access to quality vaccines, maintaining and sharing up-to-date surveillance information, Veterinary Services' capacity and, critically, the importance of political will for a long-term commitment to FMD control. In some cases, tools and mechanisms are available to improve FMD control, however their uptake has not been optimal. During the [second meeting](#), discussions revolved around four thematic areas, namely (i) regional governance, (ii) public–private partnership, (iii) advocacy and (iv) technical issues (diagnostics, epidemiology, vaccines and vaccination resources). A [Padlet board](#) was used for interactive participation and to record inputs. Initiatives, needs and gaps were identified in each thematic area and recommendations were developed.

Strategy review

An external review of the Global FMD Control Strategy implementation was initiated with the publication of the Expression of Interest for a dedicated consultancy. The objective is to review the Strategy's implementation at national, regional and global levels in the seven regions where it has been in effect since 2012. The review commenced in July 2022 with a team of two consultants from Kenya who were awarded the contract from a competitive bidding process managed by WOAH. The review is ongoing, and the assessment is against components one and two of the strategy, i.e. the progress made on FMD control and the activities related to strengthening of Veterinary Services. These are assessed against the key performance indicators of the Global Strategy action plan, milestones identified in the strategy and assessed at national and regional levels. The global coordination by both FAO and WOAH is also reviewed. Gaps, critical areas of work and key recommendations for the Strategy to achieve the set goal of reducing or eliminating FMD virus circulation by 2027 are being identified through desktop studies of reports, and all the relevant documents including interviews and a survey questionnaire. The review is expected also to provide recommendations on a framework for effective monitoring and evaluations of the strategy. The outcomes of the review are expected to contribute to updated work plans for the FMD Working Group and the GCC-FMD to target critical areas going towards 2027.

Apart from the Global FMD Monitoring and Evaluation, the SEACFMD campaign from 1997 to 2021 was reviewed

FIGURE 2. Stages of countries along the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD at the end of 2022



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

Source: UN. 2022. PCP-FMD dashboard available at <https://www.gf-tads.org/fmd/progress-on-fmd-control-strategy/en/> consulted on 23 August 2023, and not indicating WOAH recognized free zones or countries with or without vaccination.

and summarised by external evaluators aligned with the Global FMD Control strategy and the achievements of the SEACFMD roadmap's implementation assessed.

The EuFMD has established a Support Unit to assist the FMD Working Group in the daily implementation of its activities and to ensure that it can effectively support the countries it serves.

Progression along the PCP-FMD

The PCP-FMD stages of countries at the end of 2022 are shown in Figure 2 below. In the reporting period, four new Members advanced to Stage 1, and two to Stage 2. All but one of these Members received support from a PCP Support Officer (PSO) to prepare a national FMD control strategy, which was linked to their advancement, demonstrating the value of the PSO system. Regarding WOAH status, one Member had their FMD zonal status recognised (with vaccination applied), and one had an endorsed official control programme. In 2021, WOAH recognised six zonal statuses from three different Members. The suspensions of FMD free status zones of three Members by WOAH occurred in 2022 owing to outbreaks of FMD in the zones. This shows the increasing risk of FMD incursions into free areas, so that Members must

continuously implement preventive measures to maintain their free status.

Meetings

The 4th FMD Roadmap Meeting for Eastern Africa and 2nd FMD Roadmap meeting for Central Africa were held virtually in March and September of 2022, respectively. Meeting conclusions and recommendations were agreed upon, and most important was that FMD is not uniformly a priority disease in each roadmap region. Vaccine procurement challenges and performance of advanced FMD diagnostics to ensure effective and targeted control measures were also identified as key challenges. The FMD Working Group met with Regional Advisory Groups of the two regions to discuss the FMD situation in each region and ways to support each country. Reports are available on the GF-TADs website.

Other

An open-access course 'Introduction to the Risk Assessment Plan' was produced under the umbrella of the GF-TADs.

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 is under development 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.

A WOAH laboratory twinning project on FMD between the Pirbright Institute (WRLFMD) and Kenya has been initiated to strengthen capacity on FMD diagnosis.

Challenges

Advancement along the PCP-FMD is hampered by the slow development of national FMD risk assessment plans and risk-based strategic plans. 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 to be effective. 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.

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.

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 five FAO staff members (and one support staff), all based in their respective organisations (except the Secretariat coordinator and support staff based in FAO-HQ). Each FAO staff is assigned to coordinated activities in the region (s) where he (sheis) based. The Rome-based UN 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 Permanent Representative meeting was held on 10 December 2021, with six ministers invited to share their views on controlling PPR.

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 held another meeting on 7–9 December 2022. The GREN serves as a forum for scientific and technical consultation, debates and discussions about PPR, encouraging innovation and supporting the PPR GEP.

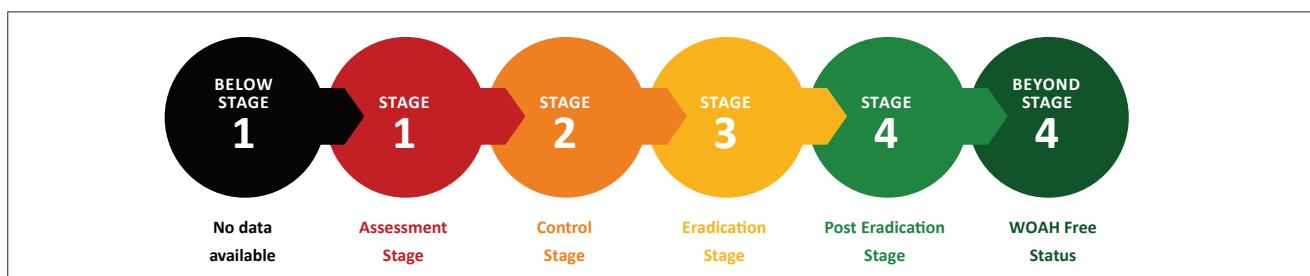
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

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.

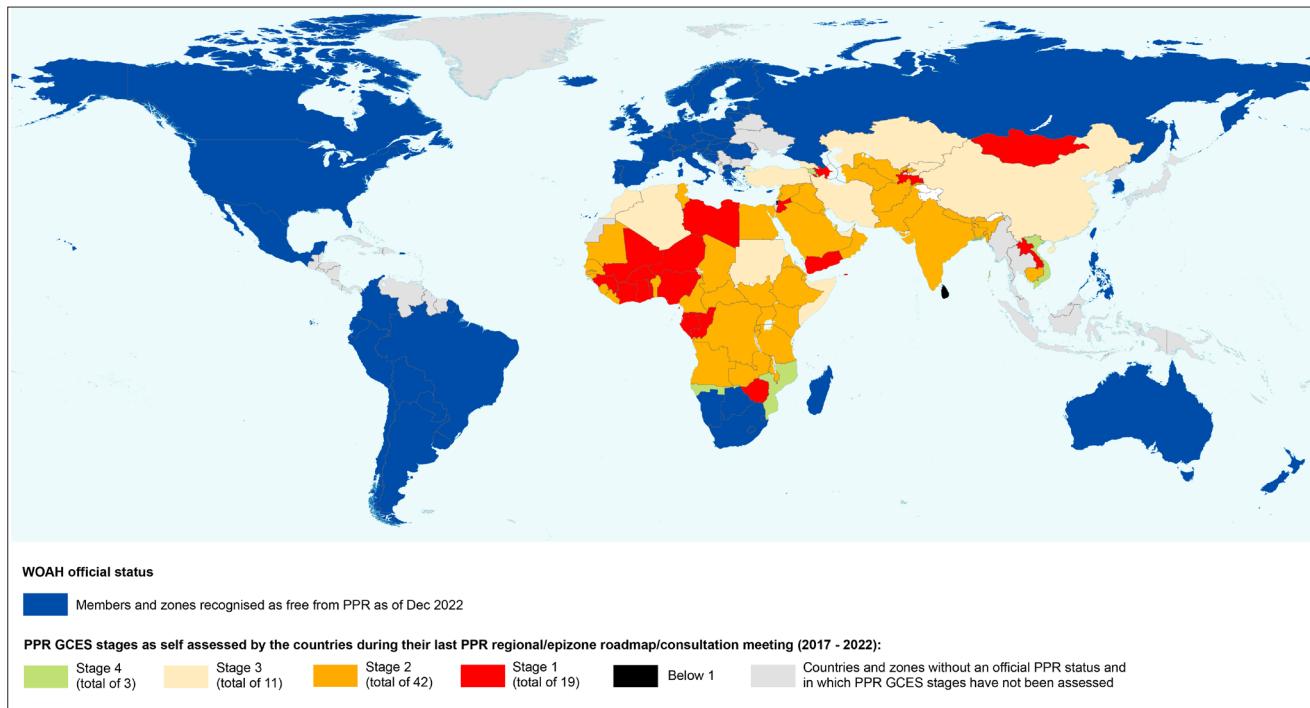
To implement the strategy, the first five-year PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) was launched in 2017. The GEP is a multi-country, multi-stage process that implements the GCES. The four stages it sets out in GCES involve assessment, control, eradication and maintenance of PPR-free status. Regardless 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.

FIGURE 3. Progressive PPR control and eradication – the four stages of the PPR GCES



Source: FAO, WOAH. 2015. Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4460e/i4460E.pdf>

FIGURE 4. The PPR global situation with respect to the GCES stepwise approach, as reported by countries during roadmap meetings up to June 2022



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. United Nations. Cited 22 August 2022. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF> modified with the list of countries recognized as free from PPR according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7 of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) results presented by countries during their last PPR regional/epizone roadmap/consultation meeting.

Disclaimer: The official disease status recognized by the World Organisation for Animal Health for disputed areas may not be reflected in the above map, but can be consulted at the following link: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/official-disease-status/>

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.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE LAST YEAR

In-depth PMAT review

Countries have viewed the PMAT as a complex questionnaire that was difficult to implement. Following these observations, confirmed by countries' testimonies that the PMAT was not as widely used as anticipated, FAO and WOAH launched an in-depth review of the tool in March 2020. The objectives of this process were to identify why the PMAT had not been applied as widely as originally intended, to develop a new version of the tool that would be easier to understand and more user-friendly, to enhance its implementation and usefulness and to support the PPR GEP.

A PMAT expert team was formed consisting of four independent experts designated by FAO and WOAH, who had equal footing to revise the tool in collaboration with the joint FAO-WOAH PPR Secretariat. The work of the PMAT team was supervised by the chairman of the PPR-GREN.

Questionnaires were sent to countries to assess their perceptions of filling out the PMAT since 2015. The expert team revised the PMAT and produced a new format for

the questionnaire. In parallel, the expert team developed a User Guide, accompanying the questionnaire, which defines the optimal use of the tool at the country level and in the context of Roadmap and Epizone meetings.

The PPR Secretariat and the expert revision team presented the revised PMAT at various regional and Epizone PPR consultation meetings held for the Middle East, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Northern Africa, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) (plus Russia, China and Mongolia) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as in the stakeholder workshop for the presentation and review of the revised PMAT, which was held in June 2021. The feedback from these consultations was positive and illustrated the need to fine-tune the new questionnaire further and provide clarifications on the intended use of the tool through the PMAT User Guide. Currently, the revised PMAT has been finalised and forwarded to the GF-TADS Management Committee for validation.

Review of the PPR Global Eradication Programme

The first five-year PPR GEP, which covered 2017–2021, laid the foundation for implementing the PPR GCES. From the end of 2021, the second phase of the programme, PPR GEP II, and III (PPR Blueprint) will guide the next phase of the eradication. As recommended at the 2015 Abidjan PPR conference, ‘*a GCES mid-term review shall be conducted after the five first years of implementation of the GCES (2020) as well as indications whether the vision can be achieved by the proposed timelines, with “corrective actions” if needed*’. The FAO and WOAH agreed to revise the first five-year implementation of the GCES by the end of 2020, in order to formulate the second phase of the PPR GEP and a blueprint aimed at 2030.

The FAO and WOAH established a core expert team (CET) of six independent experts to formulate and draft the second phase of the GEP jointly with the PPR Secretariat. A detailed modus operandi developed by the Secretariat (with the technical support of the Advisory Committee and the GREN bureau) was shared with the CET for concurrence. It was subsequently validated by the GF-TADS Management Committee. The modus operandi provides a roadmap for carrying out the PPR GEP BP.

To consider the views of all stakeholders regarding the formulation of the PPR GEP BP, virtual consultation meetings have been held in each region or Epizone, jointly with African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and Regional Economic Communities. The consultations have targeted Central Africa, West Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa,

the ECO (plus Russia, China and Mongolia), South Asia and the Middle East. So far, meetings have been held in all these regions except South Asia, which is now in the planning phase. For each regional consultation, the following participants were invited, along with members of the GF-TADS Regional Platforms, Regional Economic Communities and Resource Partners: the national chief veterinary officers, PPR national coordinators, epidemiologists and/or national livestock (small ruminant) development officers; national laboratory coordinators; wildlife conservators, veterinarians and research institutes; and representatives from civil society organisations, traders and any other stakeholders of the small ruminant value chain. To complement the regional consultative meetings, a series of global meetings is also being organised, with the aim to build awareness and advocacy, sensitise partners and stakeholders to the PPR GEP second phase and communicate the benefit of PPR eradication as a global good and enabler of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The results of the consultation meetings were as follows:

- There are strong partnerships between the African Union (IBAR and Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre [PANVAC]) and the Regional Economic Communities on that continent and in Asia, as well as with several other partners.
- AU-IBAR may use the outcomes of the consultations to review its Africa continental PPR programme.
- PPR national strategic plans have been formulated in almost all countries. National PPR Coordination Committees are only in place in a few countries. The national strategic plans need to be transformed into investment plans for PPR GCES.
- All African countries are members of the regional network of national epizootic-surveillance systems and laboratories. These networks need to be strengthened in Asia and the Middle East.
- ‘Episystem’ was defined in relation to PPR epidemiology and socio-economic factors, as presented by the CET.
- Technical support is needed in PPR management activities.
- Resource mobilisation is insufficient locally and externally.
- The 2030 target should be clearly defined if it envisages that each region will achieve official recognition as being PPR-free rather than simply suspending field operations at this deadline.
- Certain countries that are at high risk lack transparency when sharing information on PPR. This directly affects meeting the 2030 target.

- Challenges are insufficient funding, insecurity, uncontrolled animal movement, inconsistent vaccine procurement and usage followed by inconsistent post-vaccination evaluation, insufficient animal identification, lack of reagents, lack of equipment, weak surveillance capacity, weak implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks and cross-border collaboration among some countries.

The last PPR regional consultation meeting was scheduled for the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation on 20–21 January 2022. However, this Regional Economic Community is less involved in PPR activities than other regions, as they are currently facing political issues regarding animal health.

Other activities conducted or launched in 2021

- As an outcome of the 4th meeting of the PPR Advisory Committee in September 2020, a resources partners meeting was organised and attended by the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), European Commission, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank. All of them showed interest in funding PPR eradication and called for more national engagement.
- Regular communication is ongoing among the Secretariat, Advisory Committee and GREN, as well as with major resource partners.
- A virtual training workshop on PPR outbreak investigation in wildlife was organised in March 2021 in partnership with the FAO and WOAH Regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific and the Wildlife Thematic Group of the PPR GREN. The aim was to help countries develop a capacity to detect, investigate and respond to suspected PPR events in wildlife. The training focused on Bhutan, Iran, Mongolia and Nepal. The training material and report from the workshop were published on the [GF-TADs website](#).
- The 4th meeting of the PPR Advisory Committee recommended that a mechanism should be introduced for assigning dedicated consultants to countries, who will provide concrete and tailored technical support for drafting, revising and implementing their PPR national strategic plans and implementing the PMAT. During recent regional consultation meetings, some countries expressed their interest in benefiting from such support. The PPR Secretariat is currently developing the terms of reference for PPR and will soon submit to the GF-TADs Management Committee proposed terms of reference for review and validation.
- A side event ‘Coping with climate change: the key role of livestock ownership’, held before the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26), was organised by FAO, WOAH and the African Union Department for Agriculture Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment. It was attended by nearly 200 participants and highlighted (i) how small ruminants can protect rural households against climate shocks and (ii) how animal health initiatives such as PPR GEP can enhance the livestock sector’s contribution to climate resilience.
- Each institution has been implementing its activities based on task sharing agreed upon in 2019.
- At the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, a specific resolution was adopted on PPR.
- At the first session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Livestock of the Committee on Agriculture, which was held in March 2022, member countries discussed a policy paper, ‘Progress on efforts for the eradication of peste des petits ruminants’.
- A PPR Control and Eradication Strategy follow-up meeting for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and Yemen was held on 1–3 March 2022 with the aim of assisting member countries to progress with their PPR control and eradication activities.
- As part of the experience sharing, a webinar was organised for the government of India to provide an update on the implementation of their PPR national strategic plan.
- Each of the four GREN thematic groups has been meeting regularly to guide activities in its research area.
- An SADC roadmap meeting was held on 12–14 September 2022 with back-to-back training on PPR surveillance held on 15–16 November 2022.
- A small ruminant stakeholder forum was established and met in October 2022 and developed a statement that was presented during the launch of the PPR Blueprint. The forum will be meeting every 2 years.
- The 5th Advisory Committee meeting was held in Rome on 2–3 November 2022 and made several recommendations.
- A PPR Blueprint was launched in 4 November 2022.
- Following a meeting on 4 November 2022, the Permanent Representative Friends of PPR met on 30 November to discuss follow-up activities. Attendees included the Ambassadors of Ireland and India, the Counsellor/Alternate Permanent Representative of the European Union, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Alternate Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Kuwait and Mali.

- The fifth PPR GREN meeting was held in Montpellier, France on 7–9 December 2022. Several research and general recommendations were made.

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.



Rinderpest post-eradication

THE FAO-WOAH JOINT RINDERPEST SECRETARIAT

Samia Metwally (FAO), Shija Jacob (FAO), 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 (RHF)s for safe storage of the remaining RVCM stocks;
- Implement an international preparedness plan, referred to as the Global Rinderpest Action Plan;
- Continue to advocate for destruction and sequestration of RVCM in the remaining countries and reduction of RVCM holdings in RHFs, while keeping the RHF network active;
- Maintain a global inventory of RVCM stored in and outside RHF;
- Establish 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. However, currently, RVCM is kept in five countries outside RHF and in six countries in designated RHF. Genetic sequences of RPV are available to the public in databases such as GenBank.

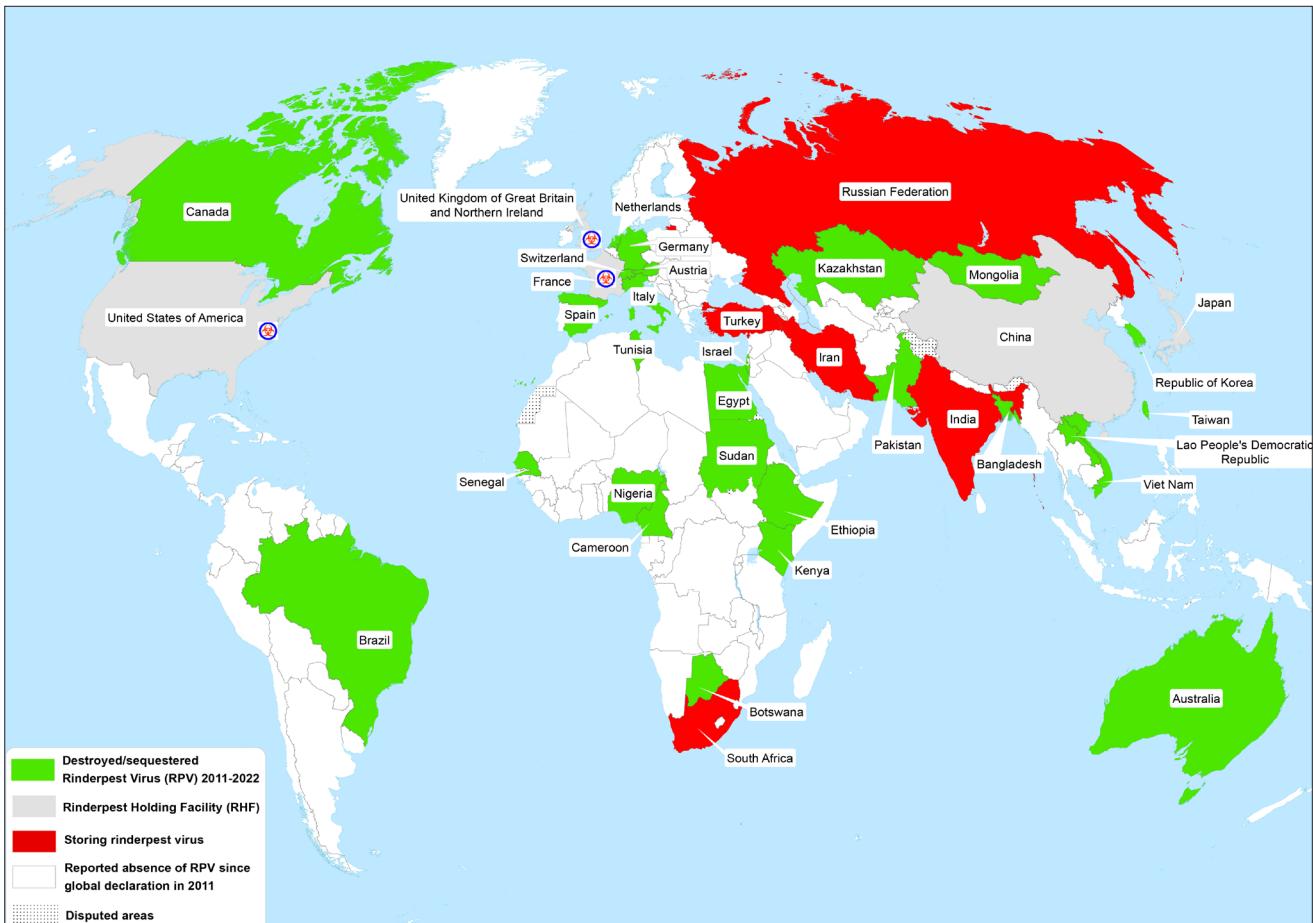
In 2022, Viet Nam destroyed its RVCM held in two laboratories with the in-person assistance of FAO and WOAH. Additionally, Viet Nam submitted a destruction report per the FAO–WOAH standard operating procedure (SOP).

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE LAST YEAR

FAO–WOAH joint activities:

- The number of countries storing RVCM outside RHF was reduced to five.
- The anniversary of rinderpest eradication was commemorated on 28 June 2022 with the release of an e-card.
- The RHF network continues to have update calls every six months.
- The application from Japan to produce the rinderpest vaccine and perform quality control tests for the reserved vaccine was approved in May 2022.
- Three RHF (in China, France and the United States of America) are interested in starting Sequence and Destroy projects in 2023 to decrease their RVCM inventory and to reduce the risk of re-emergence. The applications are pending JAC's review in January 2023.
- A hybrid outreach meeting with the five countries storing RVCM, to assist in removing their RVCM stocks or applying for RHF designation, took place in Rome in September 2022.
- RHF were extended and the RHF mandate updated for one year, in May 2022. This will allow for the RHF's three-year mandates to be synchronised and for FAO and WOAH to have the same dates in the WOAH resolution and FAO designation letters.
- The members of the Rinderpest Secretariat met in Rome on 11 and 12 July to organise the inspections of five RHF in four countries.
- The RHF in the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, United States of America and Japan were inspected between September and December 2022. The extension of the respective mandates will be discussed during the 18th meeting of the JAC in January 2023.
- The National Veterinary Institute (NVI), Ethiopia, was inspected as an ad hoc producer of rinderpest vaccine to replenish the reserve at the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU-PANVAC).
- The Rinderpest History book was launched on 4 November 2022.

FIGURE 5. Rinderpest virus in laboratories of Member Countries in June 2022



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. *Map of the World*. United Nations. Cited 22 August 2022. <http://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF> modified with Rinderpest Virus in Laboratories of Member Countries.

FAO-led activities:

- Support was provided to Viet Nam in the destruction of all remaining RVC in accordance with the FAO-WOAH SOPs. Biorisk management training was also provided to staff in the form of a biosafety/biosecurity overview.
- On 13–17 June 2022, FAO organised infectious substance shipment training to equip laboratory technicians in Viet Nam with International Air Transport Association (IATA) certification for packaging and shipping dangerous goods.
- 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. 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 drafted.
- 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 as the next step.
- FAO implemented rinderpest advocacy in Pakistan, Viet Nam and Kenya.
- Pakistan – organised the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting in June, and consultative meetings with the technical team at FAO Pakistan and Animal Husbandry Commissioner (AHC)/CVO Pakistan to review the progress and develop the workplan of pending activities.
- Viet Nam – modified the Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials, conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) courses and communication campaigns and organised the dissemination workshop on June 30th. The awareness raising campaign in Viet Nam was completed.

- Kenya – reviewed the rinderpest IEC to customise them to the Kenyan context, held a one-day IEC material Review Workshop targeting field and laboratory veterinary staff in September 2022, and visited animal health training institutions to sensitise the students and teaching staff to rinderpest. Kenya's rinderpest risk communication activities were completed.
- The promotional video for the second eLearning module, 'Global Rinderpest Action Plan', was developed.
- A montage video on rinderpest was produced.
- A beta version of the rinderpest mobile app was reviewed for further modifications.

WOAH-led activities:

- The Rinderpest Virus Tracking System was launched in 2017 and is hosted by WOAH with access granted to FAO. In 2022, a technical intervention was carried out to ensure the system's continued functionality.
- WOAH commissioned a progress review of RVCM sequestration and destruction and a risk assessment of rinderpest re-emergence ten years post-eradication. A consortium of WOAH Collaborating Centres (Texas A&M University, the United States of America, and the Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom) was awarded the project after an open call for tender.

- The review of progress was finalised in January 2022, and the risk assessment was delivered in July 2022. These two deliverables were the subject of publications (see below).
- A revised version of the Rinderpest chapter of the WOAH Terrestrial Code was published in May 2022, in the sequence of a two-year standard-setting process.
- An update to the GRAP was started to reflect the changes to the WOAH Code.
- Funds to support the development of a non-infectious competitive enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay (cELISA) by the Pirbright institute were identified.
- The rinderpest page of the WOAH website was updated to reflect WOAH's new branding and writing guidelines.

Publications

Budke, C. M., Pfeiffer, D. U., Jones, B. A., Fournié, G., Kim, Y., Marrana, M. & Simmons, H. L. (2022). Sequestration and destruction of rinderpest virus-containing material 10 years after eradication. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 28(9), 1895–1898. <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2809.220297>

Kim, Y., Jones, B. A., Pfeiffer, D. U., Marrana, M., Simmons, H. L., Budke, C. M. & Fournié, G. (in press). Risk of rinderpest virus re-introduction 10-years post-eradication. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*.



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 Fedyaevsky
- GFTAD Global Secretariat: Karima Ouali (support)

The AI-TF is guided by recommendations of the GF-TADs MC. The AI-TF will also take into account 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.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

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.

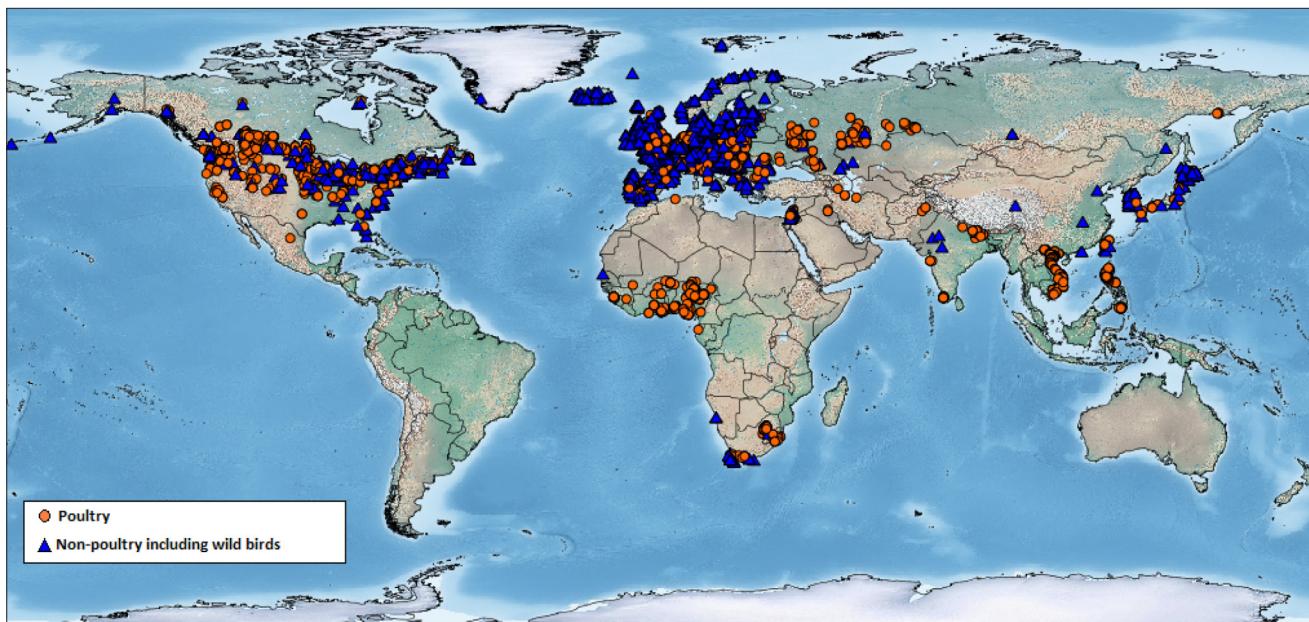
Internal consultations on expectations of future AI global prevention and control strategy:

- 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.

FIGURE 6. The HPAI situation, October 2021 to September 2022



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map of the World. United Nations. Cited 20 September 2023. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/file/3420/download?token=TUP4yDmF> modified with data from EMPRES-i and WOAH World Animal Health Information System.

- 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.

Meetings:

- Regular monthly meetings were conducted among members of the task force to follow up on different identified actions.
- The outputs of the task force were presented during the MC 42, 43 and 44 meetings.

Activities at the regional level

REGIONAL SECTION OF THE GF-TADS FOR AFRICA

Website: [Africa GF-TADS](#)

Institutional activities

- The [11th Regional Steering Committee](#) meeting, RSC11, was held on 21–23 June 2022.
- The terms of reference of the Regional Steering Committee, including the Regional Secretariat, were updated.
- Twenty-two (22) recommendations were adopted with regard to the general strengthening of partnerships, in particular with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the harmonisation of market authorisation on FMD vaccines, the engagement in PPR eradication, the progressive control of ASF, the need to provide guidance on the control of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), the achievements of the rinderpest post-eradication campaign, the coordination under the Quadripartite for Rift Valley fever (RVF) control, the revision of the HPAI contingency plan in West and Central Africa, the mapping of African horse sickness (AHS) vaccine producers and the development of the veterinary and veterinary paraprofessional workforce.
- The terms of reference of the Standing Group of Experts for CBPP were discussed and unanimously adopted. Meanwhile, the COMESA Secretariat has offered to host the first, inaugural meeting in 2023. This REC is based in Lusaka, Zambia.
- The region's priority diseases are FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP and RVF.

Key technical activities under the GF-TADS label

ASF

- The [first meeting of the standing group of experts \(SGE\) for ASF](#) was held as a virtual meeting from 23 to 24 March 2022; the meeting was attended by 65 participants. The participants identified the following priority topics: value chains, biosecurity, surveillance, outbreak management, socio-economics, cross-border issues, policy and transparency.
- A [second standing group of experts for ASF](#) meeting was held as a virtual meeting from 21 to

22 September 2022, with a focus on value chain analysis; eight of nine founding member countries and in total 44 people attended the meeting. As a way forward, it was suggested that a system be put in place to support countries with guiding tools and documentation for value chain and risk analysis, to encourage a common approach and provide technical assistance. Members' attention was also drawn to tools available online through the FAO Virtual Learning Centres (VLCs) to support capacity building, among them implementation of the Global Initiative for ASF and capacity to manage other pig diseases of public health importance such as porcine cysticercosis, echinococcosis and trichinellosis. In addition, it was recommended that the formal, technical presentations from the second SGE meeting be shared with SGE Members who were not present at the meeting. Countries were also encouraged to communicate their capacity needs for consideration of support based on country-specific needs. To guide the next steps, the collaborating partners will encourage and support capacity building for value chain analysis. The technical support may include sets of training courses delivered to countries, to harmonise and implement the tools. The next meeting will be held as a face-to-face meeting in 2023. Schedule and venue will be communicated by the organising team (WOAH, FAO, AU-IBAR) in due course. The focus of the next meeting will be biosecurity along the value chain, implying the need for countries to have made progress in understanding their value chains and risks. If organised as a face-to-face meeting, over three days, there may be a possibility to deal with more than one topic and include, for example, surveillance and outbreak management.

- The regional training on import risk analysis (IRA) for ASF, which was initiated in 2021 for English-speaking African countries, was repeated from 27 September to 1 November for French-speaking participants. The six-day (20-hour) virtual training was attended by 44 individuals over the six-week period, including country representatives (34), expert-trainers (3), WOAH staff and observers (FAO, and the RAHC of ECOWAS).

FMD

- A meeting on the FMD roadmap for Eastern Africa was conducted virtually from 29 to 31 March 2022. The disease remains endemic in the region, with 1 country out of 10 at PCP stage 0, 5/10 countries at PCP stage 1 and 4/10 countries at PCP stage 2. The composition of the RAG was updated and recommendations were adopted to promote specific FMD control activities, and in particular virus characterisation and vaccine matching, and post-vaccination monitoring, as well as cross-cutting issues to strengthen Veterinary Services, in particular laboratory capacity and movement control, assess the socio-economic impact of FMD and develop public-private partnership (PPP).
- A meeting on the FMD roadmap for Central Africa was conducted virtually from 27 to 29 September 2022. The disease remains endemic in the region, with 5/6 countries at PCP stage 0 and 1/6 countries at PCP stage 1. The composition of the RAG was updated and recommendations were adopted to promote specific FMD control activities as well as cross-cutting issues to strengthen Veterinary Services, in particular laboratory capacity, assess the socio-economic impact of FMD, develop PPP and seek for synergies with other TADs.

PPR

- On 17 March 2022, AU-IBAR, with support from FAO and WOAH, launched the second phase of the [Pan-African Peste des petits ruminants \(PPR\) Control and Eradication programme \(2022–2026\)](#). The validation meeting was attended by the GF-TADs Africa Steering Committee members, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, FAO, RECs (ECOWAS, IGAD/ICPALD, SADC, UMA, ECCAS, EAC), and selected CVOs. These stakeholders, including bilateral partners such as the donor community (e.g. AfDB, IFAD, IsDB, EU, USAID, BMGF) and ministers from Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Cameroon and Chad, were also able to attend the PPR launch on Thursday 17 March 2022. A key outcome of the validation meeting was the formulation of The Nairobi Declaration on the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030.
- A [SADC PPR road map meeting](#) was organised for Southern African countries on 12–15 September 2022 as a physical event, and was attended by 35 participants from Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as representatives of FAO and WOAH headquarters and sub-regional offices, SADC Secretariat, AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and

the Botswana Vaccine Institute. Recommendations were formulated for the three groups of countries in the region: PPR free, historical free and infected countries. The meeting was followed by dedicated training on PPR status recognition, attended by participants from Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and Mauritius.

REGIONAL SECTION OF THE GF-TADS FOR THE AMERICAS

Website: [Americas GF-TADs](#)

Institutional activities

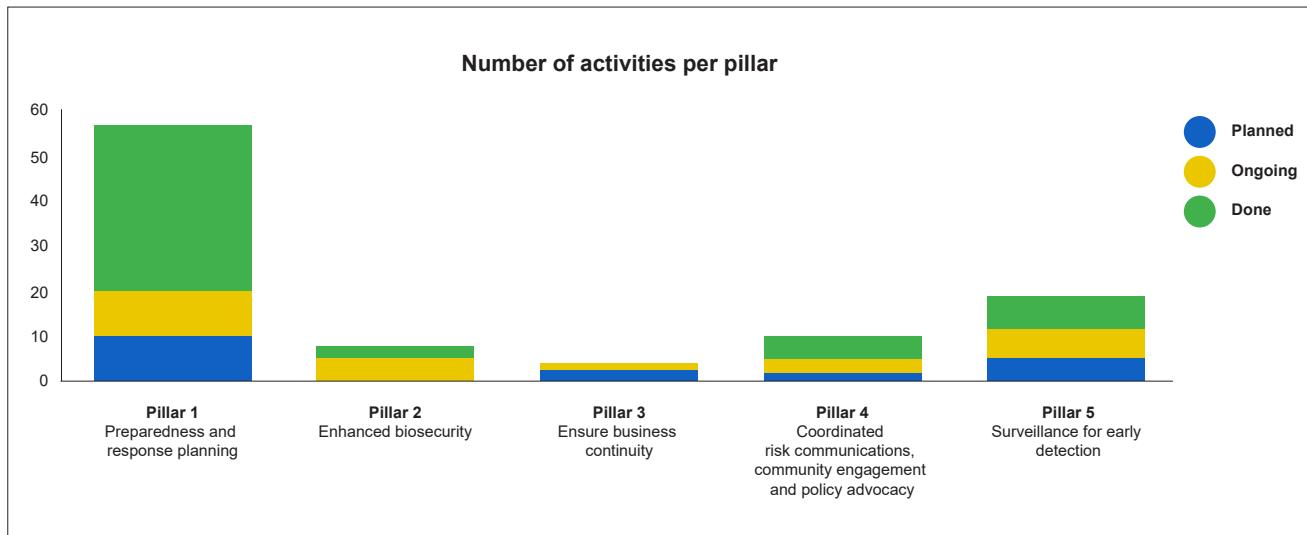
- The [17th Regional Steering Committee for the Americas](#) was organised on 9 September 2022 as a virtual event. The Regional Steering Committee unanimously agreed to accept the resignation of Dr Jasinder Komal, recognising his leadership during his term. The newly elected President of the GF-TADs for the Americas is Dr Jack Shere from the United States of America. The participants exchanged information on the current situation of African swine fever (ASF), avian influenza (AI) and foot and mouth disease (FMD), globally and on the continent. The Regional Steering Committee decided to merge the standing groups of experts on ASF and classical swine fever, in order to jointly address their prevention and control.
- The regional priority diseases are FMD, ASF, classical swine fever, avian influenza and screwworm.

Key technical activities under the GF-TADs label

ASF

- The [5th meeting of the standing group of experts for ASF](#) was organised on 23 August 2022 as a virtual event. The objective of the meeting was to learn about the ASF situation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and the status of implementation of the action plan, derived from the regional strategy against ASF. In addition, the results were presented of the risk analysis of ASF virus introduction and of a simulation exercise on the reception of suspected ASF samples, developed by FAO, the latter in collaboration with OIRSA, in the Central American region.
- As part of the [Regional Framework](#) for the containment and prevention of ASF spread in the Americas, more than 50 coordinated activities were conducted by the regional GF-TADs partners, addressing the five pillars of the framework (see Figure 7).
- In total, 17 of these activities started in 2022 and covered:

FIGURE 7. Activities by pillar of the Regional Framework for the containment and prevention of African swine fever (ASF) spread in the Americas



Source: GF-TADs ASF Working Group.

- Pillar 1 – Preparedness and response planning
 - CVP – Subregional Meetings on emergency actions
 - Training for emergency response brigades in the Dominican Republic
 - Talk on ‘Depopulation based on OIE standards’
 - Prevention and reinforcement of the capacities of the ASF free countries of the region
 - Training (online) – Update on ASF outbreak in Dominican Republic and Haiti
 - Participation in International Seminar on wild boar
 - Training (online) – Webinar on ASF outbreak: Emergency actions
 - SG-CAN Subregional Meeting Follow-up on ASF Action Plan implementation
 - Training on canine binomials and design of a strategy for their establishment or reinforcement.
- Pillar 2 – Enhanced biosecurity
 - Training of 35 canine binomials for non-intrusive inspections at international airports
 - Update of regional ASF risk analysis
 - Increasing awareness of veterinary and quarantine authorities through printed and digital information materials
 - Regional Risk Analysis in Member Countries of CAN.
- Pillar 4 – Coordinated risk communications, community engagement and policy advocacy
 - Training (online) – Webinar on Compensation Policies
 - Training (online) – Two webinars on Risk Communication for ASF

- Presentation on risk communication during the ASF Simulation exercise organised in Presidente Getulio, Brazil (19–26 November); more than 230 professionals took part in this exercise.
- Pillar 5 – Surveillance for early detection
 - Talk on ‘Procedures for cleaning and disinfection for facilities and vehicles contaminated by ASF virus’
 - Talk on ‘Depopulation based on OIE standards’
 - Working Meeting – Role of Wildlife in ASF virus spread.

HPAI

- A rapid risk assessment on HPAI was proposed to all countries and territories of the Americas in October; the final report will be available in 2023.
- The [1st meeting of the standing group of experts for HPAI](#) was organised on 13 December 2022 as a virtual event, attended by more than 100 participants. The objectives of this first meeting were:
 - To provide and update the global situation and spread of avian influenza.
 - To provide feedback on the regional risk assessment for avian influenza in the Americas.
 - To deliver an update of the situation in the affected countries of the Americas.
 - To receive the input of relevant experts in different fields of expertise, such as surveillance, vaccination, prevention and control, to establish the recommendations for the countries in the Americas.

- To identify the priority actions relevant for the Americas.

REGIONAL SECTION OF THE GF-TADS FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Website: [Asia and Pacific GF-TADs](#)

Institutional activities

- The last normal Regional Steering Committee meeting was held in June 2020. The meeting was aimed at revising the terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee and the list of priority TADs for the region. A follow-up meeting was organised in July to adopt the revised terms of reference.
- Since June 2021, Dr Baoxu Huang, WOAH delegate from China and president of the WOAH Regional Commission, has been the new chair of the Regional Steering Committee.
- The next regional steering committee meeting is scheduled in February 2023 and will be used to discuss and adopt the regional GF-TADs strategy, including an update of the regional priority TADs.
- As per 2022, the regional priority diseases are defined by subregions:
 - Southeast Asia: FMD, avian influenza, pig diseases (ASF, classical swine fever, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine epidemic diarrhoea), rabies;
 - South Asia: FMD, avian influenza, PPR, rabies;
 - Pacific: TADs (ASF present in Papua New Guinea);
 - East Asia: FMD, avian influenza, PPR, pig diseases (ASF, classical swine fever, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, porcine epidemic diarrhoea), rabies.

Key technical activities under the GF-TADs label

FAO and WOAH regional offices coordinated on the delivery of activities related to ASF, avian influenza FMD, LSD and PPR but many of these activities were not formally placed under the umbrella of the GF-TADs, excepting a meeting of the standing group of experts for ASF held virtually on 9 March 2022 and physically on 2 November, in Geelong, Australia.

FMD

- The SEACFMD Roadmap 2021–2025 has been published. The SEACFMD campaign enters its 6th phase of implementation under the guidance of the newly published SEACFMD Roadmap 2021–2025. This phase of the SEACFMD Campaign aims to reinvigorate FMD prevention and control efforts in

SEACFMD member countries. In addition, during this phase, the future direction of the Campaign will be explored, based on a comprehensive assessment of the results attained and constraints encountered since its inception (<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/foot-and-mouth-disease-fmd/seacfmd-campaign/seacfmd-roadmap/>).

ASF

- The SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific was organised in November 2022 to determine the next priority topics and steps for the SGE for 2023 and onwards. Finalised priorities for 2023 were:
 - (i) communication and sociological awareness,
 - (ii) biosecurity reinforcement, (iii) alternatives to culling and (iv) continued analysis of the evolution in ASF epidemiology.
- Virtual expert consultation meetings on ASF epidemiology and evolution in Asia and the Pacific region were organised in August 2022 to maintain up-to-date guidelines for ASF surveillance.
- A Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on ASF for Asia and the Pacific under the GF-TADs umbrella is ready to meet face-to-face in 2023.
- WOAH Regional virtual training on laboratory diagnosis of pig diseases has been organised in collaboration with WOAH Reference Laboratories (RLs) for PRRS and the China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC) in December 2022, to share information about the current status of pig diseases (PRRS, CSF, ASF) in the region, to enhance diagnostic and control capacity for PRRS and other pig diseases in Asia and the Pacific region and to strengthen networks and explore potential regional pig disease collaborations among Member Countries in the region.

Products or publications:

- A report on ASF in wild pigs in the Asia and the Pacific Region has been launched (https://rr-asia.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/woah_african-swine-fever-in-wild-pigs_final_23-sep-2022.pdf).
 - An ASF Communication video has been created by RRAP and FAO through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in seven languages (English, Chinese, Indonesia, Bahasa, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese) (<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/asf/>).
 - WOAH Compartmentalisation Guidelines for African swine fever have been produced (https://rr-asia.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/asf-compartmentalisationguidelines_en.pdf).
- The Thai version of the guideline is also

available (https://rr-asia.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/asf-compartmentalisation-guidelines_th_web.pdf).

- African swine fever Cross-border Risk Assessment Manual: South-East Asia (https://rr-asia.woah.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/asf-risk-assessment-manual-update_31mar22.pdf)
- Guidelines for African swine fever (ASF) prevention and control in smallholder pig farming in Asia: along with an introductory webinar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUdyqecqk9s>)
- Monitoring and surveillance of African swine fever: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb6238en>
- Culling and disposal of pigs in an African swine fever outbreak: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9188en>
- Farm biosecurity, slaughtering and restocking: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9187en>
- Clean chain approach for African swine fever in smallholder settings: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9114en>

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

- A ‘Lumpy Skin Disease Preparedness Course for Asia and the Pacific’ was delivered in January 2021 through FAO’s Virtual Learning Centre for Asia and the Pacific (VLC RAP). This online course was delivered upon the request and in collaboration with the FAO/OIE GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, with support from the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD). The materials were developed under a partnership among EuFMD, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, with regional adaptation supported by OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. In 2022 the course materials were adapted to support country-level capacity building on LSD emergency management and preparedness, e.g. an online LSD preparedness course for Pakistan was delivered through VLC in May–June 2022.

REGIONAL SECTION OF THE GF-TADS FOR EUROPE

Website: [Europe GF-TADS](#)

Institutional activities

A meeting of the [10th Regional Steering Committee for Europe](#) was held on 4 October 2022 as a physical meeting. The meeting aimed at updating participants on the progress on the regional priority TADs, discussing and adopting the [regional action plan 2023–2027](#), and

updating the list of members of the regional steering committee for the region.

- The priority diseases for the region are foot and mouth disease (FMD), African swine fever (ASF), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), lumpy skin disease (LSD), rabies and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
- Following the adoption of the regional action plan, and lessons learned from the previous period, two main actions were implemented: (i) a revision of the regional management structure of the Permanent Regional Secretariat of the GF-TADs for Europe with partners (e.g. FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia – FAO REU, DG SANTE, Regional specialised organisations (RSOs)s, Regional Support Units (RSUs)) and (ii) the development of SOPs for a more effective and transparent coordination of the Regional Steering Committee, Standing Groups of Experts and Working Groups for roadmaps.

Key technical activities under the GF-TADs label ASF

The [19th meeting of the standing group of experts for ASF](#) (SGE ASF) was held remotely on 23 February 2022. Fifteen members of the SGE ASF for Europe attended the meeting, with Italy and North Macedonia as new members, along with observer countries, representatives from the Americas and Asia, the European Commission, FAO, WOAH and EFSA. The participating Member Countries of the SGE ASF for Europe briefly presented their national epidemiological situations regarding ASF, focusing on the changes since the last remote meeting in November 2021. In addition, representatives from Italy and North Macedonia shared detailed information on the newly detected outbreaks in their countries.

The [20th meeting of the Standing Group of Experts for ASF](#) was held in person on 3 October 2022. Twelve SGE ASF members participated in the meeting along with more than 80 representatives and experts from Member Countries of the European Region, the meeting being organised as a side event of the 30th WOAH regional conference for Europe. The participating Member Countries of the SGE ASF for Europe briefly presented their national epidemiological situations regarding ASF, focusing on the changes since the last remote meeting in February 2022, and highlighted the importance of awareness campaigns and their target audiences. During the meeting, as part of the recommendations from the SGE, preliminary dates were agreed with three Member Countries to host renewed SGE ASF expert missions (North Macedonia, Italy and Germany).

The regional Secretariat for the SGE ASF redacted the concept note for an e-Learning module on biosecurity in

wild boar, with the contribution of colleagues from FAO REU, and began the process of redacting the call for tenders that was published in December 2022.

On November 2–4 2022, three SGE ASF experts visited North Macedonia and gave recommendations for the management of ASF. This was the first mission since 2019. The final report has been published on the WOAH website for the European Region.

FMD

The [first FMD meeting for the Epidemiological network](#) (EPINET) for Eurasia was organised, with the support of EuFMD, as a remote event on 9 June 2022 and was attended by 16 participants; 11 countries were represented. The current situation in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan and the main risk pathway for the spread of FMD in the region were presented, along with an update on the recent identification of the O/ME-SA/Ind2001e virus strain and issues related to vaccine matching with serotype O, reminding participants of the importance of ensuring virus characterisation and adequate vaccine matching. Participants exchanged information on the challenges in controlling FMD, common to the control of TADs such as PPR and LSD; they emphasised the importance of rapid notification and well coordinated vaccination campaigns.

LSD

The [11th meeting of the Standing Group of experts for LSD](#) was organised as a remote event on 10 February 2022. In addition to countries' presentations, the EU Reference laboratory (EURL) and EFSA shared information on LSD diagnosis, validation of diagnostic tests, independent LSD vaccine quality control, and further scientific investigation of new virus strains, including those related to vaccine-virus, giving the opportunity to establish a very useful debate. The EURL expert informed participants about several recombinant strains. For the first time, Mongolia (from the Asia and the Pacific region) took part and presented their current situation with LSD and prevention measures implemented. The SGE LSD11 developed a set of recommendations on vaccination, surveillance and other activities. Amongst these, it was highlighted that the SGE would be focused on Member Countries with cases of LSD or at risk of being affected (e.g. Central Asian and Transcaucasian countries), while the frequency of the SGE meetings will be reduced as needed. In close consultations among partners, it was concluded that the title of SGE should not be related to any geographical subregion but to the whole region (e.g. SGE for Europe).

An additional webinar was held following heightened interest from LSD SGE members, focusing on the use of

drones by Israel in the fight against LSD in both cattle and wild animals.

Rabies

The [4th meeting of the Standing Group of Experts for Rabies](#) was organised as a remote event on 6 July 2022. It was attended by 37 participants from 16 Member Countries and five international organisations. The meeting aimed to provide a coordination mechanism for members to report activities by veterinary and other services, and to continue with joint efforts to eliminate this deadly zoonotic disease from the region with the One Health approach. Members provided reports on their epidemiological situations, activities and plans regarding oral vaccination against rabies, disease surveillance activities (namely passive/general surveillance), monitoring of vaccination and resource mobilisation for sustainable rabies elimination in their respective countries and subregions.

REGIONAL SECTION OF THE GF-TADS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Website: [Middle East GF-TADS](#)

Regional GF TADs main achievements in 2022

The 9th Regional steering committee meeting

The 9th Regional Steering Committee meeting for the Middle East was held on 13–14 June 2022 as a virtual meeting.

The key message of the 9th regional GF-TADs is to strengthen collaboration with Members and partner organisations to make regional work more visible to stakeholders, so as to achieve the expected outcomes of the regional strategic plan.

- Countries in the region demonstrated progress in FAST surveillance and control compared with previous years.
- The priority diseases for the region under the GF-TADs are FMD, PPR, RVF and brucellosis. The exchanges at GF-TADs level remain often focused on single diseases. More priority diseases are to be included under the regional GF-TADs such as HPAI and VBD, and therefore should be considered as a priority by the regional strategic plan for 2023–2025.
- Assessment and capacity building of Veterinary Services are needed. During consultations on the GF-TADs strategy, many countries expressed a need to receive support to increase their capacity to advocate for disease control activities.
- Regional partners are to work in concert and provide more support. The level of involvement of private partners in GF-TADs activities varies greatly and is often limited. It is also advised that, when organising the

WOAH/FAO 10th GFTADs Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Middle East, there is a need to involve potential donors to better attract their resources.

- Gaps in funding for GF-TADs implementation of activities were identified.

Other activities in 2022 and expected impacts

A consultation meeting on FMD and PPR was organised for eastern Mediterranean countries as a hybrid meeting from 11 to 13 September 2022.

Participants exchanged information on the common challenges in controlling FMD and PPR and concluded on the importance of developing country-specific disease control plans and prioritising their needs, including costings for resource partners to consider possible support. Besides other countries advancing towards FMD stage 3 (Kuwait, Bahrain and Egypt), FMD risk-based strategy plan (RBSP) of Jordan and Saudi Arabia have been endorsed by WOAH and are now progressing towards presenting surveillance dossiers for WOAH official recognition.

Measurement of the advancement of countries along priority disease control pathways and securing funding: How the objectives will be met

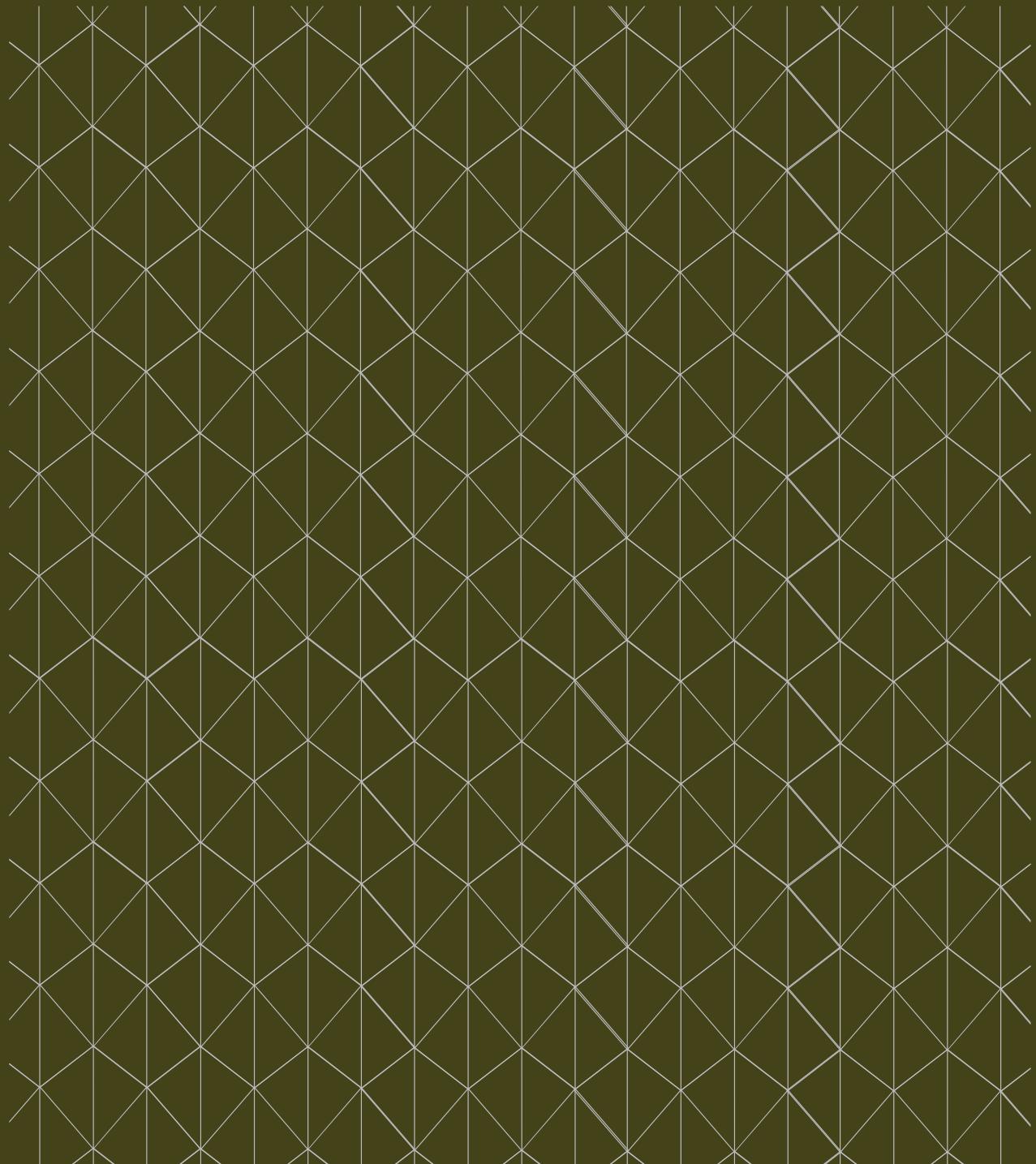
Subregional meetings were successful in enabling the countries to analyse their progress, but it would be more beneficial to define how to monitor this advancement in a sustainable way. Evidence is needed that reported activities are really implemented and not only described.

Promoting the use of the self-assessment tool might encourage countries to better monitor their RBSPs. The recommendation to prioritise the activities to be conducted according to available resources is a good approach but should be also linked to other projects in the region/country.

According to the above, the main outputs to be considered are:

- Establish mechanisms for harmonised/coordinated planning. The members of GF-TADs bodies share information on the implementation of their TADs control strategies, using a programmatic approach when relevant. This objective of the GF-TADs strategy is structured to take a multidisciplinary approach and monitor progress.
- Identify and prioritise capacity gaps in prevention and control of TADs at all levels. Subsequently, capacity building will be supported.
- Strengthen planning for the prevention and control of priority TADs, using multidisciplinary approaches that include technical, political and organisational aspects.
- Continue to provide harmonised mechanisms/tools to monitor the control of priority TADs, by supporting the capacity to monitor progress in the control of TADs and improve the ability to ascertain the efficacy of preventing and controlling priority TADs.

Annexes



Annex I

Source of funding for global priority TADs programmes

The following sections reflect financial contributions to the disease-specific control strategy. The FAO and WOAH acknowledge the contributions of countries that host physical events, and they recognise that several donors and countries (Canada, China, the European Commission, France, Japan, Italy, Spain) provide significant logistic or human resource contributions that cannot be added to the table.

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

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; South East Asia; Africa	Oct 2022
FAO	Italy DoD DTRA (USA)	EUR 150,000	Global	29 Sep 23
		US\$ 371,800	Global	
		US\$ 901 000	South East Asia	
	Korea (Republic of)	US\$ 803,500	East Asia	21 Dec 24
	Korea (Republic of)	US\$ 3,763,147	South East Asia	21 Dec 24
	OFDA (USA)	US\$ 1,775,000	South East Asia	15 Sep 21
	FAO	US\$ 500,000	Balkans	30 Nov 21
	FAO	US\$ 500,000	Pacific Islands	21 Jan 23

Source: GF-TADs ASF Working Group.

FUNDING FOR FMD

FAO-funded projects

- DTRA-funded project (GCP/GLO/074/USA): March 2020–September 2022
 - Total Budget for FMD global (US\$ 273,000) and West Africa (US\$ 919,000)
- Control of TADs FMD & PPR in Pakistan (UTF/PAK/139/PAK): US\$ 36,530,335
- Risk-based control of FMD in Pakistan (UTF/PAK/145/PAK) 2019–2025: US\$ 0 (the donor will implement the project through its own department, the National Veterinary Laboratory)
- Critical support to the cold wave and One Health emergencies (desert locust, fall armyworm and FMD) in Pakistan (TCP/PAK/3801): February 2020–December 2021, US\$ 500,000
- Technical assistance to mitigate the impact of FMD incursions in Zambia (TCP/ZAM/3802): November 2020–November 2022, US\$ 251,000
- Risk reduction of FMD in the Northern and Southern Provinces in Zambia (GCP/ZAM/083/CEH): December 2020–November 2021, US\$ 184,179
- FMD emergency aid programme (MTF/INT/004/MUL): 1995–2023, US\$ 3,130,691
- Regular programme funding

EuFMD-funded 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: 2019–2023, EUR 11,200,000, of which EUR 2,650,000 is for the Pillar III Programme to sustain 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)

WOAH-funded projects

Donor	Scope	Amount	Period covered
EU-DG SANTE	Global	EUR 80,000	2019–2020
EU-DG SANTE	EU–neighbouring countries	EUR 80,000	2020–2021
EU-DG SANTE	Global	EUR 75,000	2022*
China	SEACFMD	EUR 620,000	Open
DTRA	Global	US\$ 510,000	2020–2022
NZ-MFAT	Lao PDR/Myanmar/ SEACFMD	NZ\$ 14,935,123	2015–2022
Italy	Global	EUR 150,000	Open
Germany BMZ	Namibia/SADC	EUR 1,000,000	2022–2026
Japan JTF	Asia and the Pacific	To be determined	2021–2022

* Under negotiation.

Source: GF-TADs ASF Working Group.

FUNDING FOR PPR

FAO

France (2017–2020; US\$ 330,891), DTRA (2019–2022; US\$ 384,926), FAO regular funds and several trust funds at the country level.

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.

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: September 2020–June 2023 (extended base period); US\$ 579,300 (base period). A one-year option period can be activated in September 2023

Annex II

Follow-up on the recommendations of the GSC12

ID item	Recommendation	Status	Comment
Recommendation 1 (output 1.3)	Synergies be encouraged across the different TAD control strategies and that the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 connect with the One Health approach, including the GSC being updated on relevant initiatives related to One Health.	Yellow	On progress. Synergies are promoted by the Global secretariat and exchanges are ongoing between FMD and PPR to explore synergies, joint roadmap meetings considered for FMD and PPR, PPR and Rabies joint vaccination campaigns took place in Eastern Africa. Initiative taken to describe the assessment tools available across TADs, perspective for biosecurity stepwise approach, perspective for FMD/LSD control synergies.
Recommendation 2 (output 1.2)	Local socio-economic contexts be taken into account in the planning and implementation phases of TAD control strategies, in particular with regard to the needs of livestock producers and access to affordable animal health services by smallholder farmers.	Yellow	On progress. This recommendation is taken into account in the PPR blueprint, the FAO/EuFMD Veterinary Paraprofessionals Project, the FMD support to countries following recent outbreaks, the implementation of the Socio-economic impact assessment of FMD and resource mobilisation conducted in Central and Western Africa in 2022 and ASF: value chain analysis promoted in South East Asia and Africa and supported by tools such as OUTCOST. Support to animal health service by WOAH veterinary workforce development programme.
Recommendation 3 (output 3.1)	All relevant stakeholders at global and regional levels be strongly encouraged to engage in cooperating through the GF-TADs coordination mechanism, from the design phase of control strategies to the implementation phase.	Yellow	Ongoing, with the activities aimed at promoting the PPP for FMD control in Sudan. Americas: strong coordination between sub- and regional partners including private sector for the control of ASF. Establishment of a partnership and financing panel (PFP) and presentations in Regional Steering Committees for Africa, Americas, Europe and Middle East. Involvement of AOAD and REMESA network in coordination of TADs control activities (FMD, PPR, RVF) with FAO and WOAH.
Recommendation 4 (output 2.3)	Implementation of the GF-TADs Strategy be monitored by using the specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) key performance indicators currently developed under the GF-TADs and that easy and feasible monitoring actions be established.	Yellow	Ongoing.
Recommendation 5 (output 3.1)	Public-private partnerships be encouraged, in particular with veterinary vaccine manufacturers.	Yellow	Ongoing with multiple disease working groups. The PPR activity included it with the PPR vaccine manufacturer's forum and the multi-stakeholder platform on vaccine security organised by EuFMD together with the delivery of EuFMD PPP courses followed up by PPP in ME. Potential for LSD, HPAI.
Recommendation 6 (output 2.2)	Countries' efforts on advocacy for financing vaccination campaigns, and to encourage investment in research, development and production of quality vaccines, cold chains and/or access to thermotolerant vaccines, when feasible, as well as the financing and monitoring of vaccination campaigns be supported.	Yellow	PFP to provide recommendations on advocacy for financing vaccination campaigns. WOAH PPR vaccine bank includes thermotolerant vaccine. EuFMD support to PVM: EuFMD support with the creation of the Group for Vaccination Advice, Guidance and Consultation (GVA) for FAST diseases (one per region; North Africa, Middle East and SEEN region).
Recommendation 7 (output 2.1)	Capacity building and harmonisation initiatives to improve the predictability of the growing demand for vaccines and their markets be supported by providing more accurate estimates on TAD vaccines usage and better access to epidemiological data.	Yellow	Ongoing through the model developed under EuFMD activity, FAO collection of data.

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Recommendation 8	Vaccine regulatory approval be harmonised so that better information on vaccine production capacity can be provided, and that independent quality control of vaccines be ensured, including by facilitating the establishment of regional vaccine quality control centres.	Yellow	WOAH reference centres on vaccine/veterinary medicinal products quality to be promoted (less coverage in Asia).
Recommendation 9 (output 2.2)	The responsiveness of the GF-TADs to surges in vaccine demand during emergency situations be enhanced, through various solutions such as pre-qualification systems, facilitated tendering processes, constitution of international/regional/national antigen/vaccine/diagnostic banks or funds (especially for foot and mouth disease [FMD] vaccines).	Yellow	Ongoing. WOAH vaccine bank on PPR/rabies, the EuFMD PreQualificationSystem for FMD, WOAH preparing generic guideline for vaccine procurement, activities of FAO ECTAD and a perspective for LSD, HPAI.
Recommendation 10	Vaccination campaigns be closely coordinated at regional or subregional level, while focusing efforts on the weakest links in the chain from the design of a vaccine campaign to the post-vaccination monitoring phase.	Yellow	This recommendation is taken into account in the PPR blueprint.
Recommendation 11	Support be provided to countries on the design and implementation of the TAD control strategies, based on the best available science, including the timely characterization of circulating pathogen strains, vaccine matching (when relevant) and the use of data from post-vaccination monitoring to identify factors influencing vaccination coverage and efficacy.	Yellow	Ongoing. This recommendation was taken into account in the PPR blueprint, by the PSOs/Technical Support Experts (TSEs) support, SEAC FMD support, the Global FMD surveillance, reference laboratory network and FMDv intelligence.
Recommendation 12	Actions under GF-TADs be optimised according to the following categories: (a) emerging diseases (e.g. African swine fever [ASF] emergence in the Americas) and globally eradicated diseases (e.g. rinderpest); (b) diseases approved for global eradication (e.g. peste des petits ruminants [PPR]); (c) diseases included in global or regional progressive control programmes (e.g. ASF, FMD, highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI], lumpy skin disease [LSD]).	Red	Not initiated yet.
Recommendation 13 (outputs 1.2 and 2.1)	The implementation of disease prevention and control against groups of diseases that affect a single livestock species (e.g. pig diseases, with ASF, classical swine fever [CSF], porcine reproductive respiratory syndrome [PRRS]) be supported through a holistic approach when this generates synergies of actions and resources against TADs.	Yellow	Ongoing. SGE for ASF in the Americas now also includes CSF. Workshop on pig diseases in Asia. Possibility of synergies considered in SGE ASF Africa (<i>Trichinella mentioned</i>) and nothing considered at global level.
Recommendation 14	Countries be assisted in enhancing their capacities to implement the OIE international standards, which requires both political engagement and finance at the national level.	Yellow	Implemented partially, with the training on international standards for ASF organised in the Americas and training on status and official programme recognition organised in Africa.

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Recommendation 15 (output 3.3)	Guidance be provided to countries on investment planning for animal health as well as on zoonotic/public health, including guidance on how to make an investment case for positive outcomes on climate and natural resource impact mitigation to allow countries to leverage climate/environmental financing options.	Yellow	Ongoing with the establishment of the Partnership and Financing Panel (PFP) which aims at providing guidance on this type of issue.
Recommendation 16 (output 2.2)	Countries be assisted with the financing and provision of regional and international experts.	Yellow	Ongoing. Support to countries is provided with the PSOs and TSEs for FMD and PPR, continuously implemented in case of emergency through Emergency Management Center (EMC)/Preparedness and Resilience Department (PRD) systems and EuFMD, it is also proposed in the GS action plan.
Recommendation 17 (redundant with Rec 1)	Synergies among the various programmes on priority TADs and among different countries and regions be strengthened in the implementation of activities organised by the global GF-TADs working groups, acknowledging the specific benefits from these synergies.	Red	As per recommendation 1.
Recommendation 18	The GF-TADs strategies address the specific needs of countries. In subregions with critical animal health situations and weak capacities for response, this may lead to resources being focused on the strengthening of national Veterinary Services to obtain effective progress in priority TAD strategies with more achievable results.	Red	Recently initiated. Initial discussions to link GF-TADs with activities from Capacity Building Department (CBD), EMC, PRD and ECTAD.
Recommendation 19 (output 2.1)	A stronger working relationship be encouraged with stakeholders of animal value chains – which includes producers, sellers, hunters, middlemen, wildlife hunters and stakeholders – in efforts on disease prevention and control, particularly for ASF.	Yellow	Communication on ASF targeting different stakeholders is ongoing and it is also taken into account in the PPR Blueprint.
Recommendation 20 (outputs 1.1 and 1.2)	HPAI be included as an active global priority TAD and that the current joint FAO/OIE H5N1 Control Strategy be updated to reflect this.	Yellow	Ongoing. HPAI is now an active global priority TAD and a dedicated HPAI task force is established to revise the strategy.
Recommendation 21 (output 1.3)	HPAI surveillance at the global level, including in wild birds, and exchange of epidemiological information at the interregional level, informing early warning systems, both be strengthened.	Red	Not yet implemented but in perspective for coming years.
Recommendation 22 (output 1.2)	HPAI regional control strategies be adapted to specific characteristics of local production systems as well as to their socio-economic, market and value chain contexts.	Red	No regional strategies at this stage; to reconsider when the global strategy has been revised.
Recommendation 23 (output 1.2)	Biosecurity along value chains be strengthened taking into account the specificities of the different production systems and local risk factors.	Red	Not implemented but included in the revision of HPAI strategy. To reconsider when the global strategy has been revised.
Recommendation 24	Potential adverse effects on food security through protein and resource losses associated with responses to HPAI outbreaks be critically reviewed, and that policies and strategies for alternatives (e.g. vaccination) and accompanying trade policies be developed.	Red	Included in the revision of HPAI strategy and, ongoing, included in the EuFMD Risk along the value chain course.
Recommendation 25 (outputs 2.2)	The current OIE international standards for vaccination strategies, including the use of differentiating infected from vaccinated animals (DIVA) vaccines, be critically reviewed and updated where relevant.	Yellow	Included with the revision of HPAI strategy, EFSA mandate addressing it and the International Alliance for Biological Standardisation (IABS) seminar.

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Recommendation 26 (falls under Rec 20)	The role of OFFLU in the control of HPAI under the GF-TADs umbrella be re-evaluated and the use of data to inform evidence-based policies be improved.	Yellow	Ongoing discussion on involvement of OFFLU for recommendations on animal vaccine composition.
Recommendation 27 (falls under Rec 20)	Monitoring of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) with zoonotic potential be improved to better contribute to One Health information sharing and outcomes.	Yellow	Some activities are conducted but coordination and outreach need to improve. The revision of HPAI strategy will cover this recommendation. A task force was created to work on the revision.
Recommendation 28 (output 2.1)	The sharing of information be improved in relation to specific country needs and priority gaps identified by different organisations or during the implementation of different TAD control strategies to avoid duplication and facilitate synergies.	Yellow	The Global Secretariat workplan covers this recommendation through inventory of gap assessment tools.
Recommendation 29 (output 2.2)	A multidisciplinary approach to capacity gap assessments and capacity-building activities be encouraged.	Yellow	The Global Secretariat workplan covers this recommendation through an inventory of key disciplines and success stories.
Recommendation 30 (outputs 2.2 and 3.1)	The development and regular updating of regional action plans for the control of TADs in a multisectoral approach be encouraged and that the respective responsibilities of different stakeholders be better defined.	Yellow	Ongoing, with the workplan on ASF in the Americas, workplan in Europe, RSC in Africa and the RSC to come in Asia and the Pacific.
Recommendation 31	Regional actions plans be used to improve the timely identification of opportunities for the labelling of activities under the umbrella of the GF-TADs.	Yellow	Ongoing, with the workplan on ASF in the Americas, workplan in Europe, RSC in Africa and the RSC to come in Asia and the Pacific.

Source: FAO and OIE, 2022 12th 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, 2 November and 2 December 2021, Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8650en/cb8650en.pdf>



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