

CASE STUDY 2 FOOT  
AND MOUTH DISEASE:

# EpiCore: Value of Shared Public Health Information

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

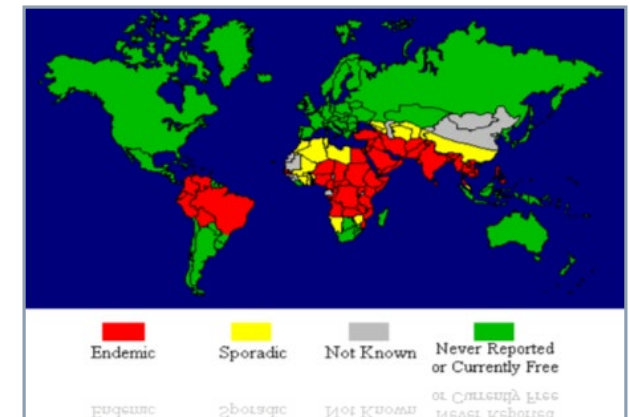
# Disease Background (I)

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a **highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals with divided hooves** (such as cows, pigs, and sheep), causing fever and blister-like sores in and around the mouth and hooves.

FMD is caused by an **aphthovirus (Picornaviridae family)** that does not spread easily to humans; outbreaks in animals can cause important economic losses.

There are seven serotypes of FMD virus, and extensive variation among strains within each serotype. Although outbreaks can be contained by vaccinating livestock, vaccines must be specific to the serotype and strain, provide no cross-protection, and confer only temporary immunity. Vaccination also interferes with routinely used screening tests for FMD.

The disease is **endemic in parts of Asia, Africa and in the Middle East** and the responsible virus spreads easily via routine movement of affected animals.



Source: FAO

# Disease Background (II)

**Clinical picture:** Fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in mouth, on the teats and on the hooves. While the majority of affected animals recover, the disease often leaves them weakened and debilitated, causing severe losses in milk and meat production.

FMD is a disease listed in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and **must be reported to the OIE**. The organization has established an official list of disease-free countries and zones with or without vaccination. Disease-free countries protect their own economies by imposing strict bans on livestock trade with countries affected by FMD outbreaks; even a single detection can halt trade.

**FMD is not a threat to human health or food safety, but can have a severe economic impact.** While most animals recover, the disease can be debilitating, leading to losses in milk and meat production. FMD-free countries protect themselves by banning international livestock trade with FMD-affected countries.

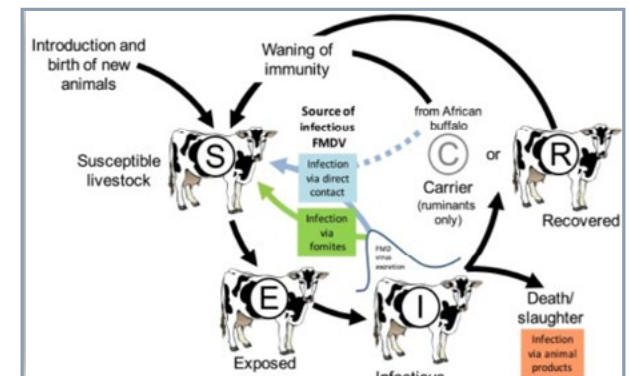
## MORE INFO

N.B. more info on

OIE FMD web-portal:

<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/fmd-portal/>

<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/fmd-portal/about-fmd/disease-information/>



# Initial ProMed Post

4 JUNE 2016

**PUBLISHED DATE:** 2016-06-04 12:23:42

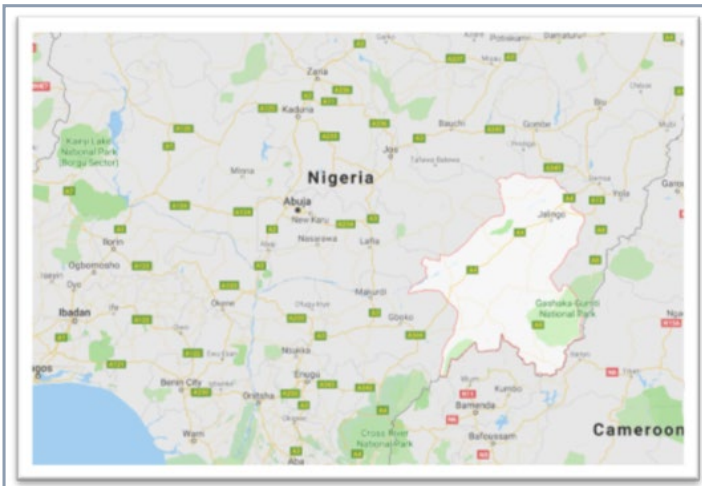
**SUBJECT:** PRO/EAFR> Foot & mouth diseases Nigeria (Taraba), bovine, new outbreak, RFI FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE - NIGERIA (TARABA), BOVINE, NEW OUTBREAK, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Media report (edited):

The State of Taraba has recorded an outbreak of FMD which is fast threatening the lives of cattle.

...cattle owners in Ngoroje area of Sardauna local government, whose cattle are presently begging for attention following the outbreak are alleging that the state government has not been proactive in establishing veterinary clinics in areas where

breeding and rearing of live stocks have been the major occupation. Dermatophytosis, also known as Kirchi is also afflicting the cattle....



## SOURCE

The Guardian Nigeria

Date: June 1 2016

<https://guardian.ng/news/taraba-hit-by-foot-mouth-disease-as-snakebite-kills-27/>

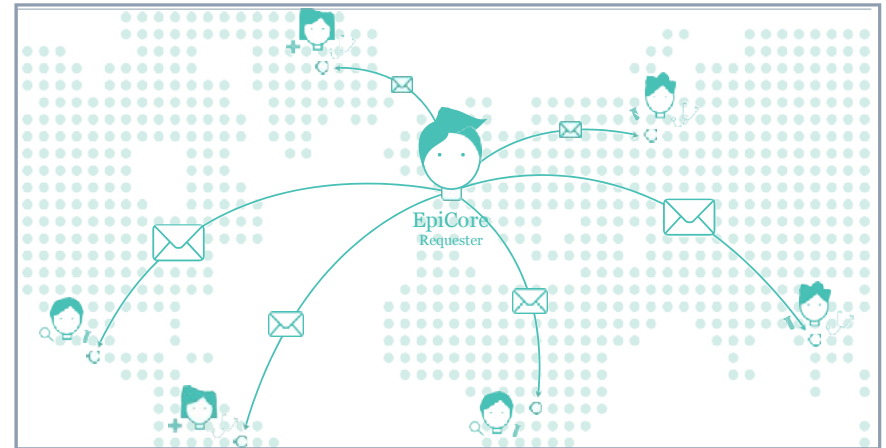


# ProMED Creates An Epicore RFI

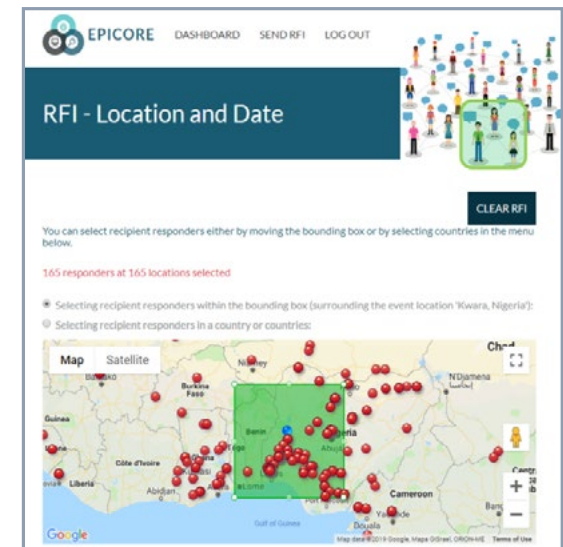
4 JUNE 2016

The ProMED moderator that has created the post issues at the same time a **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)** through **EPICORE PLATFORM**.

The RFI including all the relevant details is sent out to a selected number of EpiCore members (RESPONDERS) that are located in proximity to the reported event. The Requester may include specific questions for the network:

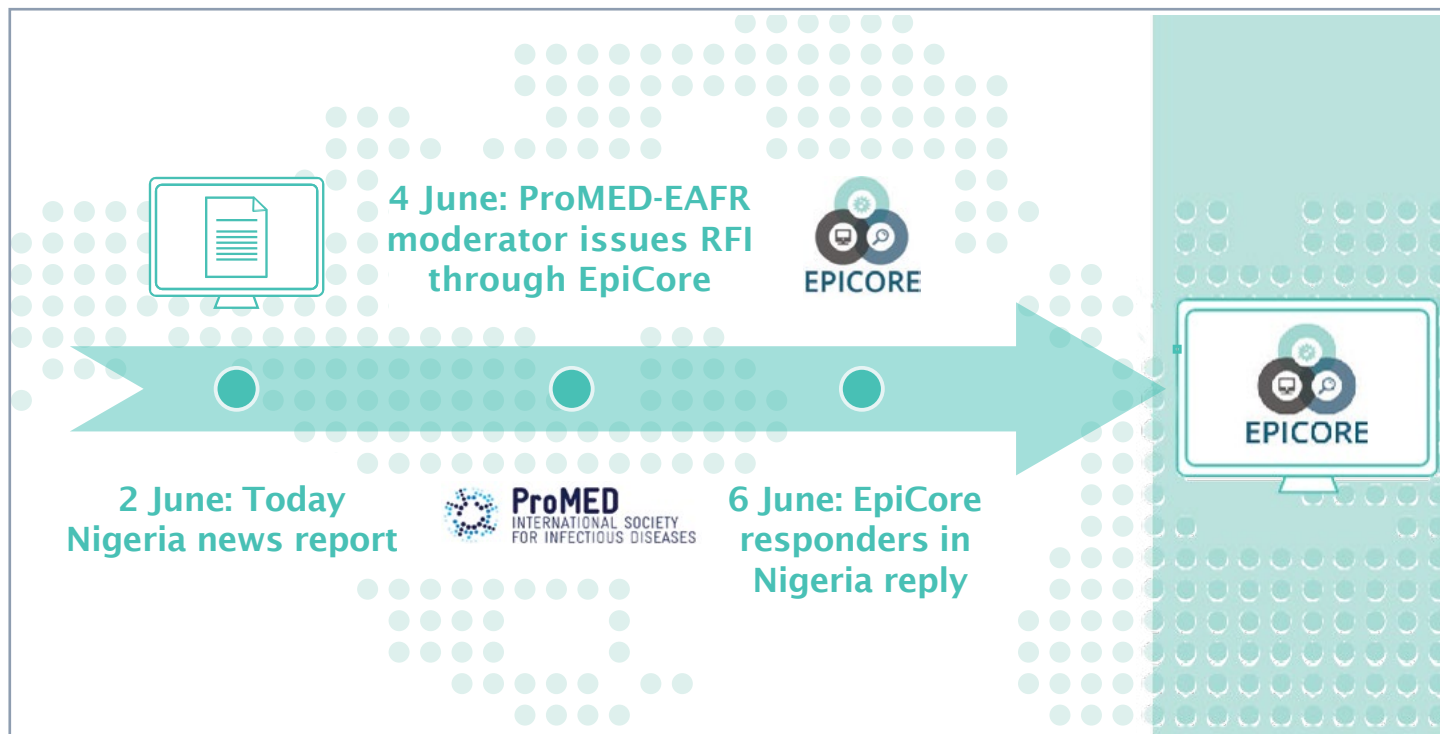


***“We would appreciate receiving more info on the reported outbreak: receptive animal population at risk, attack rate, control measures undertaken and possibly the identity of the associated virus sero/topo/genotype.”***



# EpiCore Network Responds To RFI

Within 48 hours, 2 EpiCore Platform “responders” in Nigeria posted responses.



# EpiCore Network Responses

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6 JUNE 2016

## **DIRECT REPORT**

- A field epidemiology officer from Taraba state is investigating this outbreak in the field. Unfortunately,, suspected cases are not confirmed by the national laboratory.

## **INDIRECT REPORT**

- Colleagues refer that there have been previously other cases of FMD in Taraba State. There is a recent reoccurrence of FMD in cattle grazing area of Fufore local government area (LGA) of Adamawa.

## **OFFICIAL REPORT**

- The LGA director of agriculture and veterinary services, has issued a FMD alert during an interview with New Agency of Nigeria recently.

## **PROFESSIONAL OPINION**

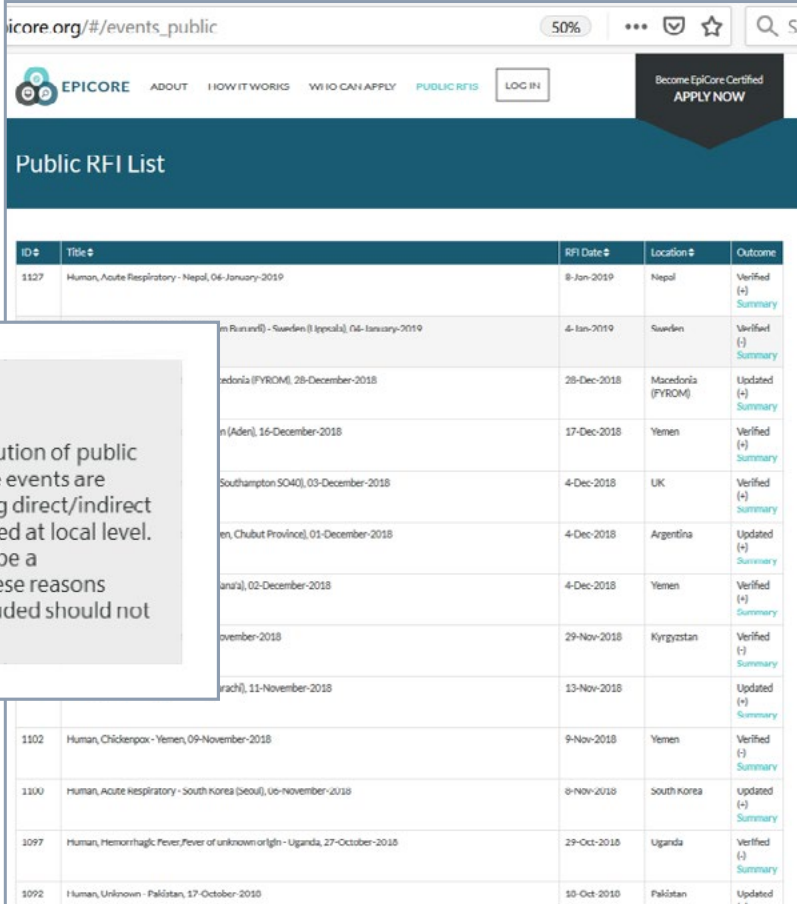
- The nomadic nature of the herdsmen is making it difficult to tract the disease incidence and carry out immediate intervention.



# EpiCore Public Dashboard Captures The Information

7 JUNE 2016

The information collected through EpiCore network is organised by the Requester in a short summary that is published on the open EpiCore Public RFI dashboard.



ID	Title	RFI Date	Location	Outcome
1127	Human, Acute Respiratory - Nepal, 04-January-2019	8-Jan-2019	Nepal	Verified (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Sweden (Jönköping), 04-January-2019	4-Jan-2019	Sweden	Verified (-) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Macedonia (FYROM), 28-December-2018	28-Dec-2018	Macedonia (FYROM)	Updated (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Yemen (Aden), 16-December-2018	17-Dec-2018	Yemen	Verified (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Southampton SO40, 03-December-2018	4-Dec-2018	UK	Verified (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Chubut Province, 01-December-2018	4-Dec-2018	Argentina	Updated (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Iran (Arak), 02-December-2018	4-Dec-2018	Yemen	Verified (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Kyrgyzstan, 29-November-2018	29-Nov-2018	Kyrgyzstan	Verified (-) <a href="#">Summary</a>
	Human, Acute Respiratory - Pakistan (Peshawar), 11-November-2018	13-Nov-2018		Updated (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
1102	Human, Chickenpox - Yemen, 09-November-2018	9-Nov-2018	Yemen	Verified (-) <a href="#">Summary</a>
1100	Human, Acute Respiratory - South Korea (Seoul), 06-November-2018	8-Nov-2018	South Korea	Updated (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>
1097	Human, Hemorrhagic Fever/fever of unknown origin - Uganda, 27-October-2018	29-Oct-2018	Uganda	Verified (-) <a href="#">Summary</a>
1092	Human, Unknown - Pakistan, 17-October-2018	18-Oct-2018	Pakistan	Updated (+) <a href="#">Summary</a>

## Disclaimer

The information included has been verified by EPICORE, a network with a world-wide distribution of public health professionals ensuring a large spectrum of verification activities in proximity to where events are reported. EPICORE members give highest priority to reliable sources of information including direct/indirect documentation about events, official statements and complementary reliable reports obtained at local level. Despite this, EPICORE does not aim to replace any official reporting system and is meant to be a complementary surveillance tool supporting public health actors in their activities. For all these reasons please consider that this information does not represent an official report and contents included should not be qualified as "officially verified".

[https://epicore.org/#/events\\_public](https://epicore.org/#/events_public)



# ProMED Post (Update)

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7 JUNE 2016

The ProMED moderator uses the information collected from the EpiCore network to publish a new ProMED post about the event.

**PUBLISHED DATE:** 2017-06-07 16:22:23

**SUBJECT:** PRO/EAFR> Foot & mouth diseases Nigeria (02) (Taraba), bovine, RFI

...There are reported cases of foot and mouth disease [FMD] in Taraba State, Nigeria. Unconfirmed report supports that the nomadic nature of the herdsmen is making it difficult to tract the disease incidence and carry out immediate intervention. This is becoming a major threat as the disease may as well spread to neighboring states. b. There is a recent reoccurrence of FMD in cattle grazing area of Fufure local government area (LGA) of Adamawa. This is according to the director of agriculture and veterinary services in the LGA who raised the alarm during an interview with New Agency of Nigeria recently.

## SOURCE

EpiCore Network

The following information  
was submitted by an EpiCore  
Surveillance Project member

# EpiCore Impact

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- The RFI and the information shared by EpiCore Responders alerted the OIE National Focal Point to the suspected FMD outbreak in Taraba State.
- This allowed the National OIE Focal Point to take steps to engage key stakeholders in verification and notification through formal domestic and international channels.

***To consider ....if a similar event happened in your own country, what sources would you use or what actions would you take to verify the details of an outbreak reported directly to the news media?***



# Case Study – Review

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## Sources or types of information used by EpiCore members to respond to the RFI:

- Direct observation (site visit, e.g. direct involvement in situ).
- Indirect report (informal info received from person in situ).
- Official report (web-based or direct official documentation).
- Professional opinion (information based on personal professional opinion, with no further report/statement).

# Case Study – Review

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**Participation by EpiCore responders contributed to innovative surveillance by:**

- Helping to identify and close a gap in reporting through formal channels.
- Providing information supporting the verification of a reported event.