Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

January 2022

SDGs:

Countries: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

Project Code: TCP/RLA/3729

FAO Contribution: USD 500 000

Duration: 3 December 2019 – 2 December 2021

Contact Info: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
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Implementing Partners

Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development of the participating countries.

Beneficiaries

Official Veterinary Services (OVS) of each of the Ministries of Agriculture and forestry services that liaise with veterinary associations, private veterinarians or national diagnostic laboratories. Also livestock farmers, smallholder farmer associations and the rural population.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Strategic objectives

SO3: Reduce rural poverty.

SO4: Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.

SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

Regional initiatives

RI1: Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean: Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

RI2: Family farming (FF) and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development: Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

RI3: Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Paraguay.

Priority areas

Policy and institutional framework to develop effective, healthy and inclusive food systems for development and to promote sustainable livestock production, governance of natural resources and forestry and agricultural systems, food security and FF, food safety and agricultural health. In addition to the One Health approach – human, animal and environmental health.

Outcomes

Government agencies and smallholder farmer associations use technical and legal tools to deploy effective prevention, preparedness and diagnostic measures in the event of an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak.

BACKGROUND

African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease with potentially serious implications for global trade and food safety.

The virus remains active for long periods of time in infected blood, faeces and tissues, and there is currently no vaccine, which makes it difficult to contain the disease and impossible to control it.

The disease has a major impact on countries, regions and subregions, generating the following: (i) job losses; (ii) loss of export markets; (iii) animal mortality; (iv) resource scarcity among low income populations; (v) loss of animal protein sources; and (vi) reduction of vulnerable families' economic capacity.

In the Americas there are two modalities of pig production: rural and industrial. Rural production is carried out by smallholder farmers, who use low-level technologies and keep small numbers of animals that transform grass, local crops and household waste into animal protein. This is based mainly on domestic animal husbandry, with few animals on each farm, but spread over large geographical areas. In these farms, the lack of veterinary care, health control, identification and traceability poses a major risk for the introduction of ASF.

In contrast, industrial pig production employs specialized technologies with large numbers of animals, veterinary assistance and a well-organized slaughter and marketing chain.

An ASF outbreak would have a devastating impact on the livelihoods of rural inhabitants who raise pigs as a source of additional income. Moreover, the costs of control measures, including the culling of infected stock and disinfection of infrastructure and fomites, will diminish resilience in the affected areas.

After an absence of more than 40 years from Latin America and the Caribbean, the fact that ASF has appeared in the region demonstrates the need for a project to provide tools and tasks to the Official Veterinary Services (OVSs). In collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), FAO has created the Standing Group of Experts of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for the Americas.

This group is working toward the prevention, control and eradication of ASF, among other transboundary diseases, by supporting the development and implementation of regional coordination mechanisms and strategies to reduce the impact and mitigate the effects of diseases and pests, through cooperation with relevant regional and subregional stakeholders.

Impact

Rural poverty reduction (SDG1), hunger eradication (SDG2) and sustained economic growth (SDG8) through improved livestock production and sustainability, by reducing the risk of ASF incursion in vulnerable rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG12, SDG15).

Achievement of results

Technical material and basic technical information were provided to the countries; and workshops were held for the OVSs, along with seminars and online courses on a range of specialized aspects of the disease.

The countries received support for their development strategies and for the prevention and control of the disease, through healthy, sustainable livestock production and safe food to eradicate hunger and poverty.

The countries were able to complement their actions with sustainable livestock production and emergency preparedness strategies.

The OVSs worked in coordination with national, international, regional and subregional organizations, such as the National Agricultural Council (CAN), the Permanent Veterinary Committees of the Southern Cone (CVP), the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), OIE and the GF-TADs. This collaboration ranged from joint missions in affected countries to workshops and studies, as well as interagency coordination and communication.

Implementation of work plan and budget

The project was executed and planned in coordination with counterparts, with actions aligned to the specific requirements, in order to obtain the expected results.

At times, the activities needed to be modified and adapted to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, with most of the work undertaken either telematically or online.

In general, the activities could be adapted, and it was possible to work together with the counterparts, completing everything as planned.

Updates and progress were evaluated periodically, redefining unexpected risks. Indeed, there was an ASF emergency in the Dominican Republic and Haiti during the project, which was dealt with in a timely manner and with excellent results.

Follow-up for government attention

The countries are much better prepared in terms of ASF, but not sufficiently prepared for the risks that persist in the region. For this reason, continuous improvement and collaboration in prevention and emergency management capacity need to be engendered, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

It is important to support countries through strategies for dealing with emergencies and other highly relevant areas such as resource mobilization, and the development and implementation of mechanisms and strategies for regional coordination and cooperation with all parties involved.

Information materials, such as pamphlets, posters, infographics, presentations, papers and network publications, as well as the current ASF Detection and Diagnostic Manual, the GF-TADs Wild Boar Management Manual and other key FAO documents will be translated into the relevant languages.

Coordinated and collaborative work will continue, mainly because transboundary diseases such as ASF require countries to work together and not individually.

Sustainability

1. Capacity development

Support was provided for technical capacity-building, awareness-raising, the facilitation of coordination, communication and multisectoral collaboration by promoting stakeholder participation at all levels.

The proposed interventions were tailored in response to government needs and to build capacities among government officials at the national, provincial and district levels.

2. Gender equality

The project did not differentiate between genders and therefore promoted capacity-building for men and women alike.

3. Environmental sustainability

Improved conditions in backyard production and strengthened biosecurity in industrial production resulted in higher yields. This means that fewer animal units are required to produce the same amount, and that the environmental impact is reduced.

4. Technological sustainability

Workshops, training, consultancies and online courses were promoted.

5. Economic sustainability

The project mobilized extra resources to address the ASF emergency.

Documents and outreach products

Documents

- May 2020. Rapid preliminary assessment, titled *Evaluación rápida y preliminar "Fortalezas y debilidades prevención y control de la Peste Porcina Africana (PPA) en países de América Latina y el Caribe*. 15 pp.
- May 2020. Rapid preliminary assessment, titled *Strengths and weaknesses, African Swine Fever (ASF) prevention and control in Latin America and the Caribbean countries*. 15 pp.
- February 2021. ASF Prevention Plan Development Guide. Spanish version (*Guía Desarrollo Plan de Prevención de PPA*) (pdf. 11 pp.)
- February 2021. ASF Prevention Plan Development Guide. English Version (pdf. 11 pp.)
- ASF Contingency Plan Development Guide. Spanish Version (*Guía Desarrollo Plan de Contingencia de PPA*) (pdf. 25 pp.)
- February 2021. ASF Contingency Plan Development Guide. English Version (pdf. 25 pp.)
- July 2021. *Apoyo en creación de capacidades: preparación ante la emergencia de Peste Porcina Africana - PPA* [Support for capacity building: emergency preparedness for African Swine Fever – ASF].
- 28 July 2021. *Apoyo en creación de capacidades: preparación ante la emergencia de PPA*. [Support for capacity building: ASF emergency preparedness].
- 29 July 2021. *Apoyo en creación de capacidades: preparación ante la emergencia de PPA*. [Support for capacity building: ASF emergency preparedness].

- August 6, 2021. *Health emergency resources*. Excel.
- **H. Rojas, G. Asenjo (under the coordination of Andrés González-Serrano).** August 2021. *Rapid and preliminary assessment; strengths and weaknesses, African Swine Fever (ASF) prevention and control in Latin America and the Caribbean countries*. Preliminary report. 32 pp.
- August 2021. Auxiliary Spanish translation of the document *African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity*.
- **J. Kayamori Lopes (Lead Coordinator, FAO EMC-AH), C. Trincado (Biosecurity, FAO), J. Souza (Epidemiology and Surveillance, OIE), H. Rojas.** *Informe misión apoyo técnico emergencia Peste Porcina Africana (PPA)* [African Swine Fever (ASF) emergency technical support mission report]. Dominican Republic 11 August-2 September 2021. FAO, EMC-AH. 61 pp.
- Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the GF-TADs of the Americas. Fourteenth Meeting with Members of the Americas (Online meeting), 26 August 2021.
- **A. González, H. Rojas.** September 2021. PowerPoint Presentation on guidelines for an ASF incursion in Latin America and the Caribbean – TCP/RLA/3729.
- September 2021. Oral presentation on ASF Biosecurity for extension workers in the Dominican Republic. ppt.
- Joint FAO-CVP-OIE meeting, held on 16 September 2021.
- September 2021. Oral presentation for GF-TADs – CVP; CAN; CaribVET. ppt.
- September 2021. Concept Note Taller Laboratorio PPA, CISA-INIA [ASF Laboratory Workshop, CISA-INIA] (Word).
- **D. Beltran-Alcrudo (Epidemiology and Crisis Management, FAO).** *Comunicación de riesgos y enfermedades de la Peste Porcina Africana* [African swine fever risk and disease communication].

- **J.M. Sánchez Vizcaíno.** ASF webinar: a global vision. "How to protect against ASF, 28 September 2021. FAO, OIE, IICA.
- October 2021. Concept Note *Talleres Puntos Críticos CVP* [CVP Critical Points Workshops] (Word. 4 pp.)
- November 2021. Concept Note *Talleres Puntos Críticos Centroamérica* [Critical Points Workshops Central America] (Word. 4 pp.)
- November 2021. Concept Note *Talleres Puntos Críticos Caribe* [Critical Points Workshops Caribbean] (Word. 4 pp.)
- December 2021. *Plan Contingencia Esencial de PPA* [ASF Core Contingency Plan] (preliminary version). Word. 16 pp.
- December 2021. *Modelo preliminar presupuestario para emergencia PPA* [ASF emergency: preliminary budget model].
- **FAO Team: A. González, P. Valencia, M. Valencia, H. Rojas, G. Asenjo.** *Taller desarrollo plan de contingencia: aspectos esenciales*. FAO Team.
- **FAO Team: A. González, P. Valencia, M. Valencia, H. Rojas, G. Asenjo.** *Workshop contingency plan development: essential aspects*.
- Oral presentation at the webinar inaugurating the online course "ASF Preparedness for Latin America and the Caribbean" (ppt. 4 November).
- Critical Points Workshops: CVP (Spanish) – Central America (Spanish) – Caribbean (English):
  - Illegal entries and border inspection. (ppt)
  - Biosecurity and surveillance in smallholder farmers. (ppt)
  - Financing and compensation. (ppt)
  - Private sector participation. (ppt)
  - Early detection and laboratory diagnosis. (ppt)
  - ASF vectors. (ppt)
  - ASF incursion and propagation scenarios. (Word)

Achievement of results - Logical framework

Expected Impact	Reduction of rural poverty (SDG1), eradication of hunger (SDG2), and sustained economic growth (SDG8) through an improvement in livestock production and sustainability by reducing the risk of ASF incursion in vulnerable rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG12, SDG15)	
Outcome	Government agencies and smallholder farmer associations use technical and legal tools to deploy effective prevention, preparedness and diagnostic measures in the event of ASF outbreaks	
	Indicators	Regulatory agencies, veterinary services and other stakeholders (farmers' associations, customs control agencies) in the 33 RLC countries are aware of the importance of an ASF prevention programme.
	Baseline	Ten countries in the Region of the Americas have an official ASF prevention and control programme.
	End target	All 33 countries in the RLC region have guidelines for the development of an official ASF prevention and control programme.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	Work was undertaken with 19 countries that signed the agreement; and working meetings were held with counterparts from the Ministries of Agriculture, OVSs and other public and private stakeholders. Work was done with the countries to raise awareness, improve preparedness, reinforce the importance of a programme to prevent an ASF incursion, and develop contingency and emergency plans in the event of a possible outbreak of the disease. The 19 participating countries were: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. This work complements the activities undertaken by the countries themselves and by various national and international organizations for the prevention, preparedness and control of ASF. In addition, FAO follows the emergency guidelines of the GF-TADs, which is a collaboration between FAO and OIE for the management of transboundary diseases. The project worked with all 19 countries, each of them in different stages and with different capacities to deal with ASF risks and potential emergencies. The project asked each Ministry of Agriculture or OVS to appoint a focal point, which maintained ongoing coordination with the project. As part of the working methodology, each OVS was encouraged to set up a working group within its structure, encompassing all areas responsible for ASF prevention and control, coordinated by the focal point. Initially, a preliminary risk assessment was conducted through a survey sent to each of the countries. The issues covered included the population at risk, risks identified for ASF incursion and propagation, including consultations with OVSs and the private sector, prevention of entry, early detection, systemic biosecurity, emergency preparedness and response, among others. Based on the results of the assessment, bilateral work began with each project country to identify gaps and how to address them. Each country had to establish a work plan based on its findings and its means. The project provided ongoing technical and methodological support for this endeavour. The project prepared a guide for strengthening ASF prevention and another for developing contingency plans; and these were delivered to the countries. A baseline contingency plan was also designed and provided to them, together with country-specific recommendations. Standard activities were carried out with each country and intensified according to particular demands and interests. In addition, working, evaluation and feedback meetings were held with the OVSs and regional counterparts, with specific workshops being held on the seven topics defined as critical: – Entry of contraband (meat and persons who may transport meat and meat by-products that enter the country illegally, products that represent a risk for ASF incursion). – Refuse from aircraft, ships and vehicles at risk for ASF incursion. – Passengers entering the countries and passing inspections carrying products that represent a risk for ASF incursion. – Pigs that can access landfills or dumps. – Direct feeding of pigs with refuse or hazardous waste. – Propagation and proliferation of the disease; transmission of ASF among pigs from backyard producers with low levels of biosecurity and weak early detection capabilities. – Propagation and proliferation of the disease: sending animals to slaughter or abattoir with little or no biosecurity and without passive epidemiological surveillance, which generate products that are potentially contaminated with the ASF virus.

Expected Impact	**Reduction of rural poverty (SDG1), eradication of hunger (SDG2), and sustained economic growth (SDG8) through an improvement in livestock production and sustainability by reducing the risk of ASF incursion in vulnerable rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG12, SDG15)**	
Outcome	Government agencies and smallholder farmer associations use technical and legal tools to deploy effective prevention, preparedness and diagnostic measures in the event of ASF outbreaks	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	Based on these critical points, the workshops were organized into the following topics: – Control of entry of hazardous products. – Biosecurity and surveillance in backyard producers. – Communication of risk. – Participation of the private sector in ASF. – Early detection and diagnostic laboratory. – Financing and compensation for ASF. – Wild boars and ASF vectors. – ASF contingency plans. Although not among the original members of the project, Brazil and Mexico joined these workshops. In addition, specialized training was provided on ASF, its prevention and control. This included the self-study course on ASF developed by FAO, which was held on two occasions with massive participation by the countries. The course was originally in English, and the project saw it translated into Spanish. During the project, a real emergency arose with an ASF incursion on the American continent (Dominican Republic and Haiti), after more than 40 years free from the disease. The project provided all available technical and budgetary support to these two countries. – Technical recommendations were provided for confronting the initial period of the emergency. – Biosecurity and diagnostic laboratory materials were delivered. – An interagency support evaluation mission was undertaken (FAO-OIE-IICA, OIRSA). – New projects were developed to mobilize resources. – Specialists were hired to provide technical support to the countries. – A follow-up mission was carried out to support the Dominican Republic.

Output 1	Establishment of enhanced ASF contingency regulations in at least three countries in the region		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Contingency plans and monitoring protocols (through simulation exercises) are developed and tested in three countries in the region.	The region's 33 countries will have ASF regulations and monitoring strategies, developed or updated through simulation exercises.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	This indicator was developed with the region's 19 beneficiary countries, to provide them with regulatory frameworks and strategies for monitoring ASF, developed or updated through simulation exercises. Summary, analysis and comparison documents were prepared on the background information provided by each country, to make a quick and preliminary assessment of strengths and weaknesses of ASF prevention and control in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Feedback and working meetings were also held on the strengths and weaknesses found in the survey sent to each country; and a report on strengths and weaknesses was delivered. This was achieved in the 19 participating countries that provided background information. Online workshops and training sessions were held with the countries to work on the contingency plans. Owing to the pandemic, specific simulation exercises were not carried out; but contingency plans, work on surveillance systems, early detection and ASF monitoring were reviewed and analysed. An online simulation methodology was developed and is currently being validated. In addition, several meetings, training sessions and online courses were held on ASF emergency and preparedness. Preliminary risk assessment surveys were sent to all of the countries identified by the project. The participation rate was high, and the countries responded quickly, with few exceptions. This instrument made it possible to ascertain and evaluate the regulatory framework for each of the countries; and this was discussed in depth during the bilateral meetings with the countries and the critical points workshops. The countries submitted ASF contingency plans or equivalents for other diseases, which were analysed by the project. Each country had a report on strengths and weaknesses (gaps) based on the results of the preliminary assessment. The results were delivered to each country individually. The guide for strengthening ASF prevention and the guide for the development of contingency plans, as well as the reference ASF contingency plan, supported the regulatory review and improvement process. Several workshops were held on contingency plans to guide the development and adjustment of the countries' plans.		
Activity 1.1	Evaluation of OVS strengths and weaknesses in terms of preparedness, control and eradication following an ASF emergency and diagnosis		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	It was possible to gauge the countries' strengths and weaknesses in terms of their capacity to confront an ASF contingency, in accordance with the components established in the preliminary risk assessment survey and the activities that were carried out during the project. The preliminary risk assessment survey covered several areas of the OVSs of the 19 participating countries. It included OVS capabilities, knowledge and preparedness options, response, knowledge of the swine industry, pig movements, imports and border controls, among other items. The availability of national regulations based on, or aligned with, OIE international standards, the availability of contingency plans, resource mobilization, compensation mechanisms, notification and reporting mechanisms, and early ASF detection were all evaluated, as were the capacity for sanitary slaughter with animal welfare, final disposal of carcasses, constant ASF risk assessments and management of this risk, and the history of feral pigs or wild boars. Bilateral meetings between countries, and workshops held with regional organizations, strengthened the country evaluations. Gaps were identified, i.e. each country's weaknesses in preparing for an ASF incursion and the response to it. These gaps resulted from poor implementation, or an absence, of measures, coverage, quality and supervision. Each country had a report on strengths and weaknesses (gaps) from the preliminary assessment results. The results were delivered individually to each country. This evaluation of strengths and weaknesses was backed up by workshops on critical points conducted jointly with the regional organizations. The project countries' contingency plans were developed and evaluated; and details were addressed in various workshops. In the Dominican Republic and Haiti, an assessment was made of their strengths and weaknesses in dealing with the ASF emergency. These findings were delivered in formal documents and presented to their authorities.	

Activity 1.2	ASF simulation exercises to ensure that emergency preparedness is well organized	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	No specific simulation exercises were conducted in the countries on site. The pandemic situation made it impossible to organize them in the countries as originally planned. However, the countries were placed in ASF emergency situations, and their contingency plans were reviewed. In addition, the Latin American and Caribbean countries shared the situation, progress and difficulties they had encountered thus far in the meetings held with the Dominican Republic and Haiti, following the declaration of emergency and detection of ASF outbreaks in their countries. A methodology was developed for conducting online simulations involving one or more countries, which is currently being validated with one of the project countries.
Activity 1.3	In the beneficiary countries, descriptive reports are prepared on the pig sector and on the hunting of wild boars and scavenging pigs	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The countries that responded to the preliminary risk assessment survey provided details on pig stocks, marketing, slaughter, traceability, biosecurity, movements, consumption or non-consumption of waste by pigs and their potential entry into landfills, pig sales or trade fairs, background information on wild boars or other wild pigs, feral pigs, other ASF-prone species and on wild boar hunters, among other topics. This information was provided to each country during the bilateral meetings. Weaknesses in the quality of the information were identified. During the critical points workshops, the characterization of backyard producers and wild boars was developed further.

Output 2	Staff of the Official Veterinary Services (OVSs) receive training in ASF prevention, diagnosis and control; and capacity building to transfer knowledge to the most vulnerable farmers in at least three countries in the region		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Government first responders (i.e. field veterinarians, laboratory diagnosticians and forestry officers/forest rangers) are better informed and better prepared to prevent, detect and control ASF at the farm level.	Initially, it was decided that around 25 responders would receive training to be better prepared to prevent, detect and control ASF on the farms.	Yes
Baseline	Gaps in operating resources and knowledge on ASF prevention, detection and control both on farms and among wildlife.		
Comments	Training events and meetings are held during the project, technical material is delivered, and/or ASF field visits/missions are undertaken. A number of training events were held for OVSs and for national and international and regional institutions and organizations; field activities were carried out simulating an ASF emergency, to train officials from different areas of government, OVSs and even other stakeholders such as the private sector. The training, communication and work activities with the OVSs of the countries and with other national and international organizations such as OIE, CVP, CaribVET and OIRSA imparted a range of skills to better prepare the participants to detect ASF at an early stage. The self-study course on ASF developed by FAO, titled “ASF Preparedness for Latin America and the Caribbean”, was implemented in both Spanish and English, which encouraged participation by the OVSs to provide supporting knowledge on the disease. There was a very high participation from countries with Official Veterinarians (OVs) and veterinarians from the private sector. Originally in English, the course was translated into Spanish during the project. It was held twice (in 2020 and again in 2021), attracting some 500 participants in total from across the region, and from more countries than the 19 originally included. As part of support for the ASF emergency in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a number of training events were held for veterinarians and field technicians, from both the public and private sectors. These included the specialized work comprising training provided by a biosecurity specialist for producers and veterinarians in technically sophisticated systems.		

Activity 2.1	Laboratory training activities organized in at least three countries in the region	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Training activities are coordinated with the national diagnostic laboratory. Special emphasis was placed on countries affected by ASF and collaboration with other international agencies and countries that provide emergency technical support to combat ASF in Latin America and the Caribbean. The FAO self-study course on ASF included a laboratory diagnostic module, in which representatives from all countries participated. The project established formal relations with the laboratory Animal Health Research Centre of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (CISA-INIA) of Spain and the University of Madrid – global reference centres on ASF diagnosis with the OIE. A joint OIE/FAO/CISA workshop on ASF diagnostic capabilities and requirements is currently being developed. A training activity was organized for all of the countries of the Central American region in conjunction with the regional ASF referral laboratory (LARRSA), in conjunction with OIRSA. This activity was organized during December and will be implemented in March 2022. Training has been provided in the critical points workshops held with the countries, in which early detection and laboratory diagnosis were analysed in detail. Inter-laboratory rounds are planned for 2022, as well as the shipment of reagents and diagnostic kits to laboratories in the region.
Activity 2.2	Epidemiology training activities are organized	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The FAO self-study course on ASF delivered a module on ASF epidemiology, in which representatives from all project countries participated. In all of the activities undertaken with the project countries, whether in groups or bilaterally, concepts, principles and tools of epidemiology applied to ASF prevention and control were taught. In the activities in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, concepts, principles and tools of epidemiology applied to the prevention and control of ASF were also provided to the OVSs.
Activity 2.3	Trainer-training programmes on ASF recognition are organized for veterinarians	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	In its introductory and diagnostic and recognition modules, the FAO self-study course on ASF provided content for replication among public and private veterinarians. The FAO ASF course was held twice during the project implementation period. The concepts of ASF recognition were reinforced in the critical points workshops, as part of the early detection module. Topics covered in the project, across a range of workshops and meetings, included ASF prevention and control, contingency planning, emergency response, early and timely detection of ASF, and risk communication, among others. In addition, a subregional workshop was held with OIRSA on the safe disposal of carcasses (a specialist was hired, and this activity was financed by the project).
Activity 2.4	Workshops are organized on wild boar management and biosecurity in hunting	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The general status of wild boars was included in the project's preliminary risk assessment survey. It focused mainly on managing wild boars, knowledge of their movements, and their populations in each of the countries involved. A virtual course was also held on ASF preparedness for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the workshops held with the countries and regional organizations such as CVP, the situation of wild boars in each country was analysed, including their characterization, surveillance and inclusion in contingency plans. Support was provided for translation into Spanish of the document "African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity", and a virtual course was held on African swine fever preparedness for Latin America and the Caribbean. The regional work team of proJAB (Wild Boar Project), which specializes in the management of wild pig and wild boar populations, participated in the meetings.

Activity 2.5	Review of pig production systems, ranging from low-input free-range pigs/domestic pigs/small-scale production to commercial farms, in terms of biosecurity practices and development of a progressive improvement path for sustained pig production in at least three countries in the region	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Pig production systems and systemic farm biosecurity were reviewed in the project's preliminary risk assessment survey. These aspects were reinforced in bilateral country meetings and critical points workshops. Pig production and biosecurity systems are addressed in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. A biosecurity expert was hired to support containment and management of the ASF emergency in the Dominican Republic, national pig production, compartmentalization and regionalization, with a view to underpinning sustained production and the continuity of commercial and business activities. The work of this specialist made it possible to review production systems and biosecurity practices in the countries.

Output 3	Improved ASF monitoring capabilities in the field (farms, forests and wildlife) to enable early action by veterinary services in at least three of countries in the region		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	The OVSs have a better understanding of the available decision-making tools, i.e. risk assessment, risk communication, cost-benefit analysis and monitoring strategies.	Provide training on the tools available for decision making: – Risk assessment. – Risk communication. – Cost-benefit analysis. – Monitoring strategies.	Yes
Baseline	Some staff understand these tools but have no practical knowledge on how to use or interpret them and therefore do not use them.		
Comments	A number of training sessions were held for the OVSs, and for interagency work on risk analysis. Agencies included CaribVET, CVP, CAN, OIRSA, GF-TADs and OIE. The FAO self-study course on ASF included content on improved ASF monitoring capacities. Official and private field veterinarians participated. During the presentation of the results of the country surveys, concepts on disease monitoring and each country's specific context were presented. Capacities were strengthened through workshops in different training sessions and in working meetings held with the OVSs, regional organizations such as CVP, CAN, CaribVET, OIRSA, as well as with the countries affected by ASF. There was also coordination with other international agencies, such as the OIE and the GF-TADs. As a result of the project, the countries organized training events with official and private veterinarians to improve ASF monitoring capabilities in their territories.		

Activity 3.1	The risk of ASF incursion, propagation and persistence is assessed	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The risks of ASF incursion and propagation are estimated on the basis of the countries' responses to the preliminary assessment. These were estimated on the basis of the residual risks. The entire project approach is based on the logic of risk assessment and risk management. An ASF risk assessment was also carried out for the entire region, including the situation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Thirty-four countries participated. This work was carried out in conjunction with the FAO Animal Health Division, at both regional and central level, and with the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) team.
Activity 3.2	A cost-benefit analysis is performed	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The costs of the different components of ASF prevention were identified for the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The regional risk assessment included a component on the economic impact that an ASF incursion could have in each of the countries.
Activity 3.3	Training for effective risk communication	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The topics are covered in critical points workshops on effective risk communication, and in the virtual courses launched on ASF, supported by media campaigns in countries affected by ASF. Support is provided to media campaigns on risk communication with FAO and the OVSs. Workshops are also held with a number of regional and interregional bodies on the situation in the countries affected by ASF, to communicate the risk of the contingency situation, enabling the countries to adopt appropriate prevention measures. In the Dominican Republic, ASF training activities are being carried out with rural extension workers.

Output 4	An ASF awareness strategy has been consolidated among the CVP, OIRSA and CARICOM as key stakeholders in the region		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	First responders (i.e. field veterinarians, farmers, forestry officers/forest rangers and hunters) are more aware and better prepared to prevent, detect and control ASF at the farm level.	Aroun 25 first responders are trained in on-farm prevention, detection and control of ASF.	Yes
Baseline	Gaps in operational resources and knowledge related to ASF prevention, detection and control both on farms and among wildlife.		
Comments	Workshops are held among different organizations and mechanisms for coordination, collaboration, coordinated work and block actions (such as CaribVET, OIRSA, CVP, CAN, GF-TADs of the Americas and OIE), in order to create mechanisms for communication, coordination and collaboration on the regions and ASF prevention. The project maintained an ongoing relationship with regional and subregional organizations through virtual meetings. The project's objectives and activities were explained, and its progress has been demonstrated in the GF-TADs sessions. This communication has intensified since the confirmation of the ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. A coordinated working method between the agencies was established, including how to address and prepare for an ASF emergency. Coordinated and joint efforts were made to support the two countries affected by ASF during the project. As a result of the ASF situation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, FAO has established close coordination with OIE, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), OIRSA and other international organizations such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS).		
Activity 4.1	National awareness-raising strategy documents are prepared for the most relevant stakeholders		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	General awareness and communication documents on ASF and effective communication on ASF are developed, in addition to prevention videos and forms. These target a range of stakeholders involved in early detection and awareness of ASF. A number of communication methods are addressed. The countries have developed their own awareness-raising activities within their countries, in accordance with the gaps identified through the preliminary assessment.	
Activity 4.2	Technical and information materials are developed and adapted to meet the needs of the different stakeholders, then translated into local languages and disseminated		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	All of the activities were prepared and translated into English and Spanish, according to the target audience, in all of the workshops held in the 19 countries. Support was provided for the translation of documents such as "African swine fever in wild boar ecology and biosecurity" and the online course "African Swine Fever Preparedness for Latin America and the Caribbean". Documents such as the model ASF contingency plan and operational procedures for ASF were prepared, while there was participation in the translation of videos and dissemination material, among others. Information materials such as pamphlets, posters, infographics, presentations, papers and social media posts will be translated into the different languages. The current ASF detection and diagnosis manual, the GF-TADs wild boar management manual and other FAO documents of interest will be translated and printed in the relevant languages.	
Activity 4.3	Stakeholder workshops are organized, and informational materials are distributed to participants		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A number of workshops were held with the OVSs and actors that they deemed to be relevant, in order to provide information, training and knowledge on ASF. A variety of individuals from areas such as academia, pig production on various scales, importers and border post staff were invited to online training events and to meetings and workshops on the critical points addressed. Information material on ASF available from FAO and OIE in GF-TADs was used, as well as the creation, translation and adaptation of materials for RLC countries. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the information materials were distributed massively through digital media (e.g. posters in the different relevant languages in the region, information videos, etc.).	

Output 5	Design and implementation of an improved regional and subregional coordination strategy for ASF prevention and control		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	The region's countries coordinate their efforts within and outside the TCP and communicate regularly on ASF prevention, detection and control.	The 19 priority countries regularly share information on their ASF status and efforts.	Yes
Baseline	There is a good level of communication between some countries, but less so between others.		
Comments	Specifically, with the CVP, CAN, CaribVET and OIRSA agencies, workshops were organized with the OVSs to reinforce critical issues in ASF prevention and contingency management. The project has participated actively in the development of the regional strategy to address ASF, in conjunction with the GF-TADs. The project has contributed knowledge, experience and joint analysis to the design and implementation of a regional and subregional strategy for the prevention and control of ASF in the OVS critical points workshops held with international agencies. The project has participated actively in all entities that contribute to eradicating ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.		
Activity 5.1	The start-up workshop is held		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Workshops are held with regional and subregional organizations to provide information on project activities. Project coordination actions and cooperation on ASF prevention and control in the region are discussed. Cooperation and coordination among the OVSs and agencies involved are encouraged.	
Activity 5.2	The final workshop is organized		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A number of closing workshops were held with the different subregions in blocks (CVP, CAN, OIRSA, CaribVET).	

Partnerships and Outreach
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