



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health

Annual report

November 2017–October 2018



A world
prepared
to manage
high impact
animal health
emergencies

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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EMC-AH

The leading global centre for
animal health emergency management

Purpose

Reduce the impact of animal health
emergencies – whether caused by natural
occurrence, accidental or deliberate
introduction – by enhancing country,
regional and international preparedness
and response capacity

Vision

A world prepared to manage high impact
animal health-related emergencies

Foreword

Animal health emergencies continue to erupt around the world at an ever-increasing pace. Increased global travel, human migration and informal trade of animals and animal products continue to intensify the risk of disease spread. Infectious diseases and other animal health threats have the potential to move rapidly within a country or around the world leading to severe socio-economic and public health consequences. For zoonoses that develop the ability for human to human transmission, an early response to an animal health emergency could prevent the next pandemic. As requirements expand for effective and efficient management of animal diseases, including emerging diseases and zoonoses, the Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health (EMC-AH) continues to evolve and keep pace with global demand, adding value for Member States of FAO.

Building on the first eleven years of success, the Centre rebranded its platform in 2018 as EMC-AH, with the full support of its Steering Committee. The new name reflects the modernization of the platform and new way of working to better address the needs of the future. The inaugural EMC-AH strategic action plan 2018–2022 released in June 2018 clearly states the vision, mission, and core functions of EMC-AH for the coming five years with the aim of reducing the impact of animal health emergencies.

EMC-AH's annual report reflects the new way of working under the strategic action plan and addresses performance and actions for the 12-month period of November 2017–October 2018. During the reporting period, EMC-AH contributed to strengthening resilience of livelihoods to animal health-related emergencies and zoonoses through the core pillars of its strategic action plan: **preparedness, response, incident coordination, collaboration and resource mobilization**. This annual report illustrates EMC-AH's commitment to transparency and accountability.

FAO's Member States have an ongoing need for a holistic and sustainable international platform that provides the necessary tools and interventions inclusive of animal health emergency management. The EMC-AH strategic action plan requires a substantial commitment of resources to implement the full range of proposed activities. In addition, EMC-AH must maintain key personnel essential to carry out its objectives and components as part of the 2016–2019 FAO Strategic Framework that addresses increased resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises (Strategic Programme five [SP5]).

As a joint platform of FAO's Animal Production and Health, and Emergency and Rehabilitation divisions, and in close collaboration with related partners and networks, EMC-AH is appropriately positioned to provide renewed leadership, coordination and action for global animal health emergencies.

Lee Myers

EMC-AH Manager a.i.

Key achievements

- ▶ Five-year strategic action plan (2018–2022) launched
- ▶ Four workshops in Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) conducted with over 80 professionals trained
- ▶ Rift Valley Fever Regional Technical Workshop in Eastern Africa sponsored
- ▶ Emergency Regional Consultative Meeting on African Swine Fever Risk Reduction and Preparedness in East Asia supported
- ▶ Six rapid response missions organized to address animal disease outbreaks
- ▶ Six animal disease incidents coordinated
- ▶ Global Rinderpest Action Plan published
- ▶ Joint project with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and INTERPOL to build resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime affecting animal health approved

Timeline

(November 2017–October 2018)

September 2018

- Facilitated panel discussion on emergency management at OIE Conference for Europe hosted by Georgia

July 2018

- First meeting of GEMP revision technical working group, Italy
- Rift Valley fever response mission in South Sudan
- GEMP workshop for West Bank and Gaza Strip

May 2018

- Co-facilitated side event on animal health emergency management at the OIE General Session, France

March 2018

- Led regional rinderpest tabletop exercise for Asia hosted by Sri Lanka
- Support for FAO-OIE conference on global rinderpest action planning and stakeholder commitment, Italy

January 2018

- *Peste des petits ruminants* rapid response mission in Burundi

November 2017

- Official name change to EMC-AH
- Led regional rinderpest tabletop exercise for Africa hosted by Kenya

October 2018

- Foot and mouth disease rapid response mission in Mauritania
- Rabies rapid response mission in Malaysia
- Participated in the G7 Global Partnership Biological Security Working Group hosted by Canada
- Co-authored FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat's global rinderpest action plan
- Served as technical expert for biological weapons exercise in Portugal

August 2018

- GEMP workshop for Lesotho
- Rift Valley Fever Workshop in Eastern Africa
- Staff hired for Animal Health Emergency Operations Centre Project

June 2018

- EMC-AH strategic action plan 2018–2021 published
- Foot and mouth disease rapid response mission in Malawi
- GEMP workshop for Senegal

April 2018

- H7N9 avian influenza preparedness mission in Viet Nam
- GEMP training of trainers for West and Central Africa hosted by Ghana

February 2018

- Participation in the G7 Global Partnership Biological Security Working Group

2018

December 2017

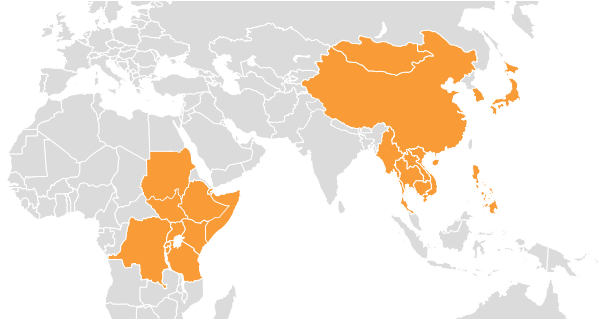
- African swine fever rapid response mission in Côte d'Ivoire

2017

Actions

EMC-AH assistance benefiting 30 countries from November 2017 to October 2018

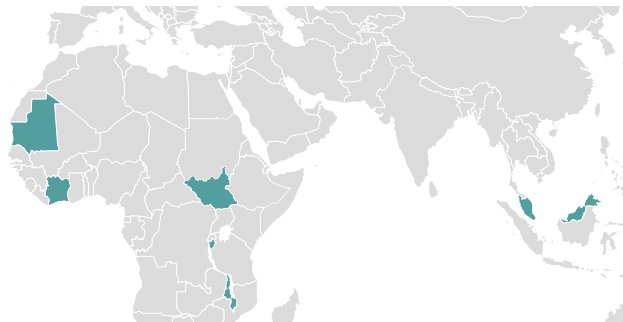
Preparedness



Source: EMC-AH, October 2018

Burundi, Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam

Response



Source: EMC-AH, October 2018

Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, South Sudan

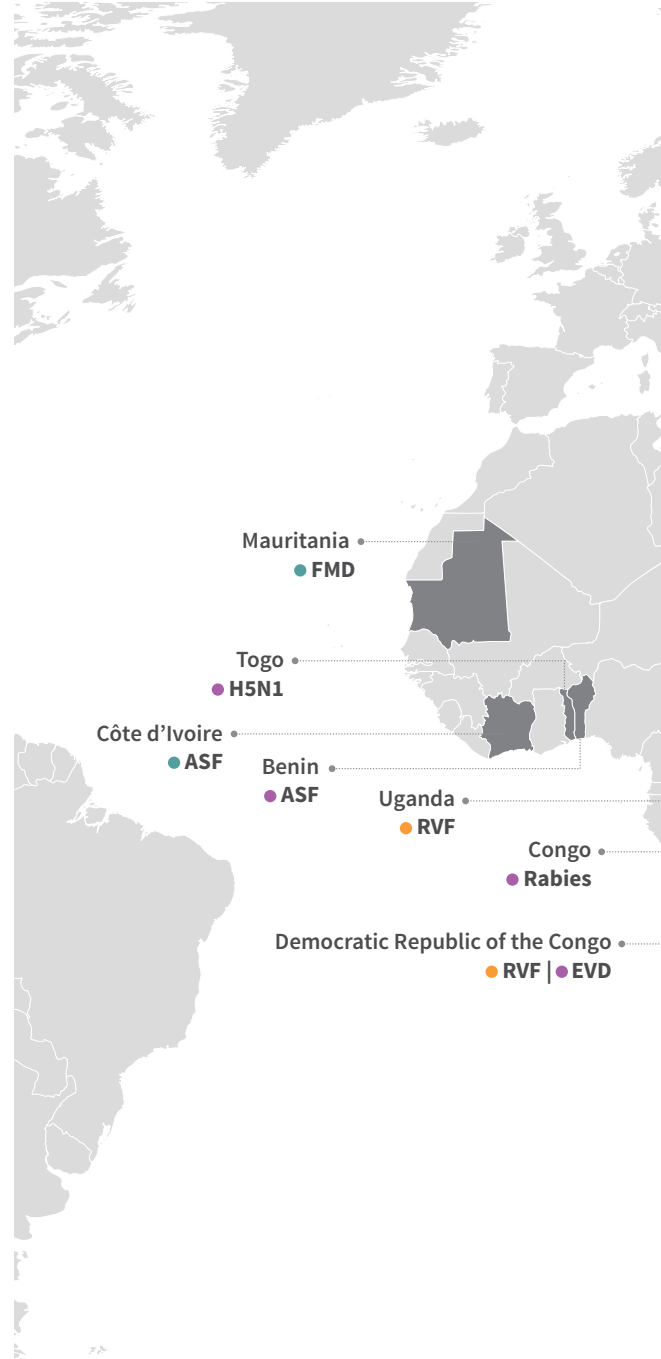
Incident coordination



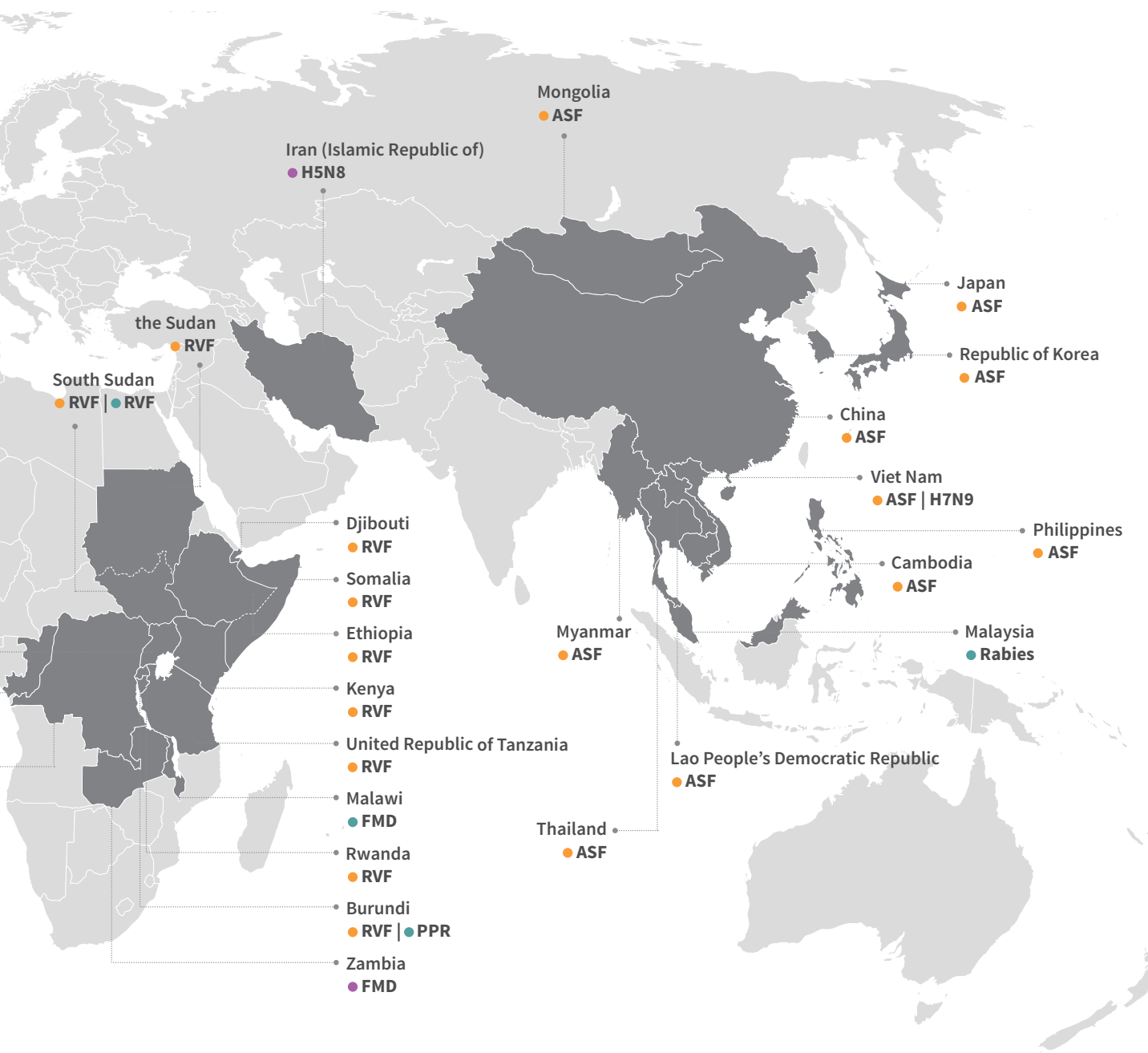
Source: EMC-AH, October 2018

Benin, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Togo, Zambia

EMC-AH assistance



Source: EMC-AH, October 2018



Actions

- Preparedness
- Response
- Incident coordination

Diseases

ASF	African swine fever	PPR	<i>Peste des petits ruminants</i>	H5N8	Avian influenza
FMD	Foot and mouth disease	EVD	Ebola virus disease	H5N1	Avian influenza
RSV	Rift Valley fever	H7N9	Avian influenza	Rabies	



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EMC-AH supported an H7N9 avian influenza emergency preparedness mission in Viet Nam, April 2018

Preparedness

EMC-AH has expanded its focus on global readiness to strengthen country, regional and international capacity to manage high impact animal diseases and zoonoses.

ACTION Modernize, develop and implement Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP) tools.

Actions during the reporting period included updating the GEMP manual and delivering GEMP trainings.

Update GEMP: The Essentials

FAO's Guide on GEMP: The Essentials is one of the most recognized tools of FAO's Animal Health Service. In July 2018, EMC-AH launched an extensive revision of the manual to expand its resources and practical application, notably for developing countries.

The new scope of the guide will also address the One Health approach and significant global risks, such as the intentional release of biological agents.

A technical working group of experts is in place and meet regularly to define the scope, objectives, content and organization of the guide throughout its development. The updated guide is anticipated in late 2019 and additional complementary resources are planned for the future.

What is GEMP: Good Emergency Management Practices?

The GEMP is an emergency management planning tool first designed by FAO in 2001 to help increase awareness and build capacities of veterinary services to better prepare, prevent, detect, respond and recover from animal diseases. EMC-AH expanded the tool in 2011 and initiated GEMP workshops as training sessions.

Since 2011

- A total of 39 GEMP workshops have been conducted worldwide by EMC-AH, including national and regional workshops, and training of trainers.
- More than 128 countries have the capacity to better prepare, prevent, detect, respond and recover from animal diseases thanks to their participation in GEMP workshops.
- Over 1 000 professionals from multiple sectors, including prime ministers and professionals at the national and local levels have received training.

Deliver improved GEMP Essentials training, training of trainers and establish a collaborative network of trainers

Four GEMP trainings including one training of trainers were delivered with EMC-AH support during the reporting period.

► GEMP training of trainers for West and Central Africa April 2018

The regional workshop, hosted by Ghana, allowed participants to share the experience of managing emerging diseases, including the challenges of veterinary services to maintain a level of preparedness necessary to ensure timely responses to disease outbreaks. Valuable discussion and exchange of ideas took place on timely topics, such as disease surveillance, risk assessment, risk communication, outbreak investigation and response, notably for Rift Valley fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza. Participants practiced what they learned through scenarios on outbreak investigation and response.

Participants: Nineteen national and regional leaders, and epidemiologists from seven countries in West and Central Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali and Senegal.

Follow up: Organize a series of training of trainers workshops in West and Central Africa and build a database of GEMP trainers who will support the roll-out of GEMP workshops and participate in the technical working group that will review the GEMP manual.

[Read more](#)

► GEMP workshop for Senegal June 2018

The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen intersectoral coordination, and emergency preparedness and response capacities of veterinary services and public health authorities. An intersectoral group involving public health, veterinary services and wildlife authorities conducted a zoonotic tabletop exercise on Rift Valley fever outbreak coordination and response.

Participants: Twenty-one participants from the Senegal Emergency Operation Centre, veterinary services, medical services, national laboratory, environment and wildlife, gender and internal security sectors.

Follow up: Identify the key aspects of emergency management not adequately addressed by the training, integrate those elements into the future plans for revising the GEMP manual and reflect the changes in the workshop materials.

[Read more \(in French\)](#)



GEMP workshop for West Bank and Gaza Strip, July 2018

► GEMP workshop for West Bank and Gaza Strip July 2018

This unique workshop involving plant health and animal health officials, highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral coordination for agriculture and livestock sectors to address threats and diseases of animal or plant origin.

Participants: Seventeen participants from the Palestinian Authority including the agriculture department, pesticides laboratory, veterinary and quarantine services, and the national veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

Follow up: Organize training on the development of disease-specific contingency plans.

[Read more](#)

“The GEMP workshop was a very interesting training. It enhanced our skills in pest and disease observation and diagnosis, and ways of decreasing spread. It was also a great opportunity to gain knowledge about animal health issues and how support can be offered to colleagues in plant health.”

Reem Rafeeq Massah and Manal Mosleh

Technical Officers from the Plant Health Department in Gaza Strip

► **GEMP workshop for Lesotho**
August 2018

The workshop allowed participants to share their experiences in managing recent outbreaks such as anthrax, rabies and sheep scab, a skin parasitic disease caused by *Psoroptes ovis*. In addition, a tabletop simulation exercise on Rift Valley fever was conducted leading to the development of a draft Rift Valley fever contingency plan. The workshop resulted in an action plan for GEMP follow up activities.

Participants: Twenty-six participants from the veterinary services (national and district levels), the Ministry of Health, and the Senior Livestock Technical Advisor from United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Follow up: Monitor the implementation of the GEMP action plan.

ACTION Build and maintain a stockpile of personal protective equipment to support EMC-AH activities.

Supported by FAO Animal Health Service, EMC-AH procured over 1 700 protective coveralls and ancillary personal protective equipment. The stockpile was deployed with EMC-AH teams on three different missions to support biosecurity and personal protection of team members during their field activities, and to demonstrate adequate personal protection equipment and its proper use to beneficiaries.



EMC-AH team members wearing protective equipment in Mauritania in October 2018. Over 1 700 protective coveralls and ancillary personal protective equipment were procured by EMC-AH in 2018

ACTION Support emergency preparedness activities within the FAO Animal Health Service.

EMC-AH has proactively reached out to other Animal Health Service colleagues to explore the intersection of emergency management activities between programmes and projects, and the opportunities for collaboration and sharing expertise for mutual benefit. Four preparedness activities including missions were undertaken during the reporting period. EMC-AH also provided support to other units or teams of the FAO Animal Health Service for preparedness activities.

This type of outreach and emergency preparedness mission illustrates EMC-AH's new emphasis on assisting countries who face imminent animal health risks to take early action in advance of a disease incursion.



EMC-AH team in a market in Viet Nam during a H7N9 avian influenza preparedness mission, April 2018

H7N9 avian influenza emergency preparedness mission Viet Nam – April 2018

EMC-AH supported an assessment mission for preparedness in Viet Nam. This unique mission followed an FAO qualitative risk assessment update for the Chinese-origin H7N9 avian influenza that identified Viet Nam at high risk of an incursion. The purpose of the mission was to enhance the country's emergency preparedness capacity for H7N9 avian influenza through early detection and rapid response, particularly the ability to quickly contain the first case and stop its spread.

The mission team recommended that the Provincial People's Committees and their relevant sub-departments plan sufficient physical and human resources in advance of a possible H7N9 response, as well as conduct a needs assessment in high-risk provinces and provide additional training for provincial action plans.

This type of outreach and emergency preparedness mission illustrates EMC-AH's new emphasis on assisting countries who face imminent animal health risks to take early action in advance of a disease incursion.

[Read more](#)

Mali is a prime example of the value and impact of long-term investment through EMC-AH preparedness missions in contributing to strengthening country resilience to animal disease outbreaks.

Impact of EMC-AH support for preparedness activities: the case of Mali (2016–2018)

Mali is a prime example of the value and impact of long-term investment through EMC-AH preparedness missions in contributing to strengthening country resilience to animal disease outbreaks.

In early December 2016, EMC-AH deployed an emergency preparedness and assessment mission to Mali. The country was at high-risk of Rift Valley fever emergence following heavy rains, exceptional flooding, and suspected human and animal cases of Rift Valley fever in neighbouring Niger, the previous summer.

FAO's findings revealed institutional gaps and disruptions to veterinary services in the high-risk region, which contributed to difficulty and delays in disease recognition and reporting. The mission team worked with local officials to recommend various measures as part of an action plan, which was validated by the Mali Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

A follow-up mission in May 2017 assisted the monitoring and evaluation of the plan's implementation. The mission revealed that the Government of Mali had committed extra-budgetary funding to implement the action plan recommended by the first mission. Further, the evaluation revealed that the EMC-AH missions had raised awareness of Rift Valley fever prevention and encouraged other partners to commit additional funding towards the plan's implementation.

As of October 2018, with support from resource partners such as the World Bank, the Government of Mali has strengthened epidemiological surveillance, through provisions including vehicles, motorcycles, sampling equipment for field workers, protective and disinfecting equipment, computer and office equipment, travel expenses and fuel allowances for local missions. The Government has also strengthened vaccination of herds in high risk areas (more than 50 000 animals), outreach and communication about Rift Valley fever, and veterinary laboratories' operational capacities.

Rift Valley fever regional preparedness in East Africa August 2018

The East Africa Rift Valley fever epidemic that began in November 2017 resulted in human fatalities and livestock abortions in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan, and placed other countries in East and Central Africa at immediate risk of the spread of the disease. In this context, EMC-AH, Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) and the East African Community organized a Rift Valley Fever Regional Technical Workshop, hosted by Tanzania. The workshop achieved its objectives of sharing knowledge on the current Rift Valley fever situation in eastern Africa, harmonising approaches to Rift Valley fever preparedness

and response including surveillance and vaccination, and agreeing on outlines for national preparedness and response action plans and a regional roadmap to achieve these goals.

The workshop brought together Chief Veterinary Officers, public health officials and other government leaders and representatives from 11 countries: Burundi, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Representatives of the International Livestock Research Institute, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, East African Community, African Union Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), OIE, World Health Organization (WHO), German Development Cooperation, USAID and FAO (headquarters, regional and country teams) also attended. The 77 participants shared their knowledge and experience of surveillance, vaccination and elimination, and worked collaboratively to develop a regional Rift Valley fever plan of action.

All attending countries agreed to strengthen efforts against Rift Valley fever. This includes implementing a subregional roadmap, establishing Rift Valley fever working groups within national One Health platforms, reviewing legislation, plans and procedures, improving disease surveillance and disease reporting, and encouraging research into Rift Valley fever vaccines and diagnostics.

As a result of EMC-AH investment into the Rift Valley fever workshop, 11 countries in East Africa are now better prepared to manage Rift Valley fever as part of a more strategic and regional approach.

[Read more](#)

African swine fever regional preparedness in East Asia September 2018

African swine fever was reported for the first time in China in August 2018 and continues to spread with concomitant threats to other parts of East Asia. As a part of its anticipation action to prevent further spread of the disease, EMC-AH collaborated with other FAO headquarters and regional units to contribute to the planning of an emergency regional consultative meeting on African swine fever risk reduction and preparedness in September 2018 in Thailand.

The EMC-AH shared technical information and advice, a roster of disease experts and other inputs as part of the schedule of events. The meeting assessed the unfolding African swine fever situation and risks for the region, and reviewed approaches for risk reduction and preparedness both at the regional and country levels with the aim of minimizing the disease impact on the pig production economy, associated livelihoods and food security. The outcome of the meeting included priorities for capacity building, advocacy, awareness and communication strategy development and implementation. It also contributed to network development, coordination and collaboration among countries, public and private sectors and research agencies.

[Read more](#)

The outcome of the collaborative effort illustrates the synergies that are gained by Animal Health Services colleagues working together to reach a common goal.

Global rinderpest preparedness

EMC-AH offered support to the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Secretariat in their efforts to enhance global rinderpest preparedness. The outcome of the collaborative effort illustrates the synergies that are gained by Animal Health Services colleagues working together to reach a common goal.

EMC-AH led the Secretariat through the development of the Global Rinderpest Action Plan (GRAP). The GRAP serves as the international operational plan that defines the frameworks and actions to take for rinderpest emergency management, and the assigned responsibility for those actions. The GRAP is scheduled to be published in late 2018.

EMC-AH also provided expertise to lead the development, execution and evaluation of two regional rinderpest table top exercises in Africa (Kenya) and Asia (Sri Lanka) on behalf of the Secretariat. Both multi-day exercises engaged key national, regional and global personnel in discussing a simulated scenario to improve and validate national, regional and international plans for a potential re-emergence of rinderpest. Exercise objectives were to:

- test and improve the operability of the national, regional and international components of the GRAP
- evaluate the current status of the national contingency plans
- support the region to identify strengths, gaps/areas for improvement, and recommendations for corrective actions in a regional post-rinderpest eradication strategy
- support participating countries to identify strengths, gaps/areas for improvement, and recommendations for corrective actions in their national contingency plans for rinderpest

The Africa exercise brought together 34 participants from six countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Mozambique and South Sudan), AU-IBAR, African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, headquarter and sub-regional representation from FAO and OIE, in addition to representation from the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee. The exercise was well received and resulted in each participating country/organization developing a plan that captures the areas for improvement, recommendations, responsible parties and completion date within one year, for each stage of emergency management.

The Asia exercise brought together senior members from 12 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam), United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency, headquarter representation from both FAO and OIE, and representation from the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee. The exercise scenario assessed participants' capacity to respond to a simulated evolving

outbreak of rinderpest. As such, it afforded an opportunity for each organization to self-assess its preparedness for coping with a rinderpest outbreak, to observe the response of other key players, and to appreciate how the various organizations would interact in such an event.

EMC-AH also provided support to the Secretariat for the FAO-OIE Conference: Global Rinderpest Action Plan and Stakeholder Commitment, and the Joint Advisory Committee.

EMC-AH support to other units of the FAO Animal Health Service has resulted in enhanced sharing of information, trust and collaboration between EMC-AH, FAO headquarters and field staff.

Additional support to other units of the FAO Animal Health Service and ECTAD

EMC-AH contributed to Asia and Africa regional ECTAD work planning by introducing the EMC-AH Strategic Action Plan and receiving helpful feedback from ECTAD country team leaders at regional meetings on how EMC-AH and ECTAD could improve mutual support. The outcome was the development of a series of GEMP workshops within the scope of the ECTAD projects to support emergency management training at the national and regional levels. EMC-AH contributed to the development of a Field Investigation Manual for Transboundary Animal Diseases for East Africa. Additionally, EMC-AH is committed to enhancing communication with ECTAD personnel and to support, as feasible, animal health emergency responses with a global component.

Additional EMC-AH support included participation in the regional workshop for transboundary animal disease control, Mongolia, sponsored by the FAO-OIE platform: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases. At the workshop, EMC-AH presented the respective and collaborative activities of FAO and OIE in emergency management, notably the new EMC-AH Strategic Action Plan and the proposal for the joint FAO-OIE-INTERPOL project.

EMC-AH reviewed and provided technical inputs for the Jordan contingency plan for foot and mouth disease and the template for a national contingency plan for lumpy skin disease. In response to the Nipah virus outbreaks in India and in support of the public health unit, EMC-AH developed an FAO webpage for Nipah virus including questions and answers, in response to the Nipah virus outbreaks in India. ◀



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EMC-AH deployed a rapid response mission to respond to African swine fever outbreaks in Côte d'Ivoire, December 2017

Response

The historical role of the EMC-AH to deploy rapid response missions upon request continues to meet a critical need for countries and regions.

ACTION Rapid deployment of missions to support emergency response in countries and regions with animal health emergencies.

EMC-AH carried out and supported five rapid response missions to address animal disease outbreaks in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Malaysia and Mauritania.

African swine fever rapid response mission Côte d'Ivoire – December 2017

At the request of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, a rapid response team was deployed to respond to African swine fever outbreaks in a region of the country where swine production is rapidly growing. The magnitude and rapid spread of the epizootic posed unique logistical, financial and organizational challenges.

The mission supported the Côte d'Ivoire veterinary services in assessing the epidemiological situation in real-time, assessing the response mechanism, and investigating to identify the origins of the outbreak.

The mission team focused its recommendations on animal husbandry (breeding and biosecurity), epidemiological surveillance, animal health emergency preparedness, compensation policy review and subregional action on cross-border issues. As a result the outbreaks were successfully contained.

Follow up: Following the mission an emergency project was drafted to address continuous threats and is expected to be launched within 2018.

Foot and mouth disease rapid response mission Malawi – July 2018

At the request of the Government of Malawi, a rapid response team was deployed to respond to foot and mouth disease outbreaks in the country. The mission supported the Government of Malawi in the investigation and design of response activities to address the outbreaks. Outcomes of the mission included the development of a short to medium-term action plan, and raising awareness about foot and mouth disease. A proposal for an emergency FAO project was also developed as a result of the mission which recommended a mechanism for cross-border harmonization with neighbouring countries to facilitate synchronized interventions targeting foot and mouth disease and other transboundary animal diseases along common borders. Likewise, it was recommended to support the procurement of foot and mouth disease vaccines, small equipment to facilitate post-vaccination monitoring and procurement of reactive agents to facilitate identification of the disease in case of new outbreaks.

Follow up: FAO Malawi has put forth efforts to mobilize resources from in-country development partners to address a new outbreak found in Lilongwe district in September 2018. The emergency Technical Cooperation Project was not approved because a national emergency was not declared by the Government of Malawi, as per FAO guidelines.



EMC-AH team members collecting samples during foot and mouth disease outbreak rapid response mission in Malawi, July 2018

Foot and mouth disease rapid response mission Mauritania – July 2018

At the request of the Government of Mauritania, a rapid response team was deployed in response to foot and mouth disease outbreaks in the country. The mission supported the Government of Mauritania in the assessment of the epidemiological situation and needs, and the definition of a prevention and control strategy to address the outbreaks. The mission recommended awareness raising among the various sectors and vaccination campaigns. The mission also pointed out a necessity to strengthen surveillance mechanisms and to update animal movement maps.

Follow up: Foot and mouth disease is now included in the Government list of priority diseases as an impact of the mission. Applications for an FAO emergency Technical Cooperation Project and a United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund project were drafted. Additionally, foot and mouth disease was proposed for inclusion in the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project.

[Read more](#)



Laboratory tests during foot and mouth disease outbreak rapid response mission in Mauritania, July 2018

***Peste des petits ruminants* rapid response mission Burundi – February 2018**

At the request of the Government of Burundi, a rapid response mission was deployed in coordination with the FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat, as well as AU-IBAR and the World Bank, to respond to *peste des petits ruminants* outbreaks that caused significant numbers of goat mortalities. The mission assisted Burundi veterinary services in:

- evaluation of the epidemiological situation in affected areas
- identification of risk factors responsible for spread of the disease in the rest of the country
- development of proposed response measures to reduce potential expansion of infection

Follow up: EMC-AH mission outcomes included the revision of the action plan for the short, medium and long term as well as receiving commitments from global and regional organizations for financial support in the short and medium term. An extensive vaccination plan was launched and the outbreak is currently controlled.

[Read more \(in French\)](#)

Rabies response mission Malaysia – October 2018

EMC-AH contributed to the FAO-OIE-WHO rapid response mission to Malaysia to assist with outbreaks of rabies. The overall goal of this unique tripartite engagement was to assess why in spite of the massive efforts of the State Government of Sarawak through rabies control strategy and operations, rabies continued to spread throughout Sarawak. The joint international and local mission provided:

- advice on the logistics of animal and human rabies vaccination strategies
- surveillance including tracing back and tracing forward of the rabid or suspected rabid animals
- rabies diagnosis
- awareness raising
- identification of high risk areas and management of the suspect animals
- integrated bite case management programme

The EMC-AH mission advanced the preparation of South Sudan for development of the country Rift Valley fever action plan and contribution to the regional roadmap.

ACTION Provide animal health technical and operational support to FAO level 3 emergency response operations.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee System classifies that a level 3 response is required for the most complex and challenging humanitarian emergencies. During the period of level 3 activation, the highest level of mobilization is necessary across the humanitarian system to ensure that the right capacities and systems are in place to effectively meet needs.

Rift Valley fever response mission South Sudan – July 2018

Due to the multiple and complex shocks that continue to devastate South Sudan's food security and livelihoods, FAO has declared a level 3 emergency response, which necessitates full FAO corporate support. Almost two-thirds of the population of South Sudan remains at risk of rising hunger, with zoonotic disease incursions contributing to an already fragile situation. Following the reports of suspected Rift Valley fever in the Eastern Lakes State of South Sudan, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries partnered with FAO, WHO, the Ministry of Health and non-governmental organizations, to investigate and ascertain the nature of the event. The field investigations revealed some 40 people and 2 000 cattle affected by the outbreaks with four human deaths confirmed. At the request for technical support from the FAO country representative, EMC-AH deployed a response mission to South Sudan to assess the capacity of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for the prevention and control of Rift Valley fever and to recommend options for improved preparedness and response to the ongoing level 3 emergency.

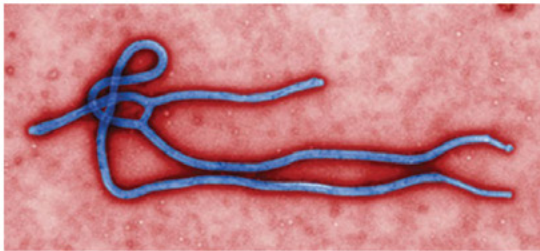
The mission recommended that the country rely on timely forecasting and the use of predictive climate models, consider piloting vector surveillance with the assistance of university or reference centre entomologists, raise awareness among pastoralists, and establish sentinel herds monitored regularly by international partners.

Follow up: These recommendations were used to prepare the South Sudan Rift Valley fever draft action plan validated during the Rift Valley Fever Regional Workshop in the United Republic of Tanzania in August.

FAO South Sudan will work with the South Sudan Ministry of Livestock, WHO and the Ministry of Health to develop the roadmap for Rift Valley fever and strengthen the One Health approach. The EMC-AH mission advanced the preparation of South Sudan for development of the country Rift Valley fever action plan and contribution to the regional roadmap.

ACTION Maintain a roster of animal health and emergency management experts to meet country requests for needs assessments, rapid response and surge support.

EMC-AH has developed an electronic tool to collect information from global experts who wish to be considered for activities within EMC-AH and other Animal Health Service units, such as mission deployments and consultancies. Data requested from experts will include technical areas of expertise, language skills, geographical experience and availability. The survey is scheduled to be launched widely in early 2019. ◀

FAO Ebola virus - FAO Emerg
www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ebola/index.html
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
Animal Production and Health
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS for a world without hunger
HOME THEMES PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS PARTNERS RESOURCES
PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS
Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES-AH)
Zoonotic diseases
Ebola virus
Key messages
FAQs
Documents
Links
Ebola virus


Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a human illness caused by infection with an Ebola virus. There are five known species of Ebola viruses, four of which cause human illness. The Zaire Ebola virus was the first Ebola virus ever isolated. The virus caused the first reported outbreaks of EVD in 1976 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. The name of the disease comes from the first recorded outbreak in 1976 in an area that lies on the Ebola River.

Ebola viruses are spread among humans through direct contact of broken skin or mucous membranes with body fluids from infected people who are sick with or have died from the disease, or contact with surfaces and materials that are contaminated with bodily fluids from infected people.

EVD is a zoonotic disease, or a disease that can be transmitted between animals and humans. The natural reservoir host of Ebola has not yet been confirmed, but certain species of fruit-eating bats are believed to be the principal animal reservoirs of Ebola viruses. Research has demonstrated that bats can carry the virus without showing clinical signs of illness. Ebola viruses have also been detected in forest dwelling wildlife species such as non-human primate (apes and monkeys), and duikers (i.e. a small wild antelope).

Latest documents
Addressing Zaire ebolavirus (EBOV) outbreaks - Qualitative entry and exposure assessment update (August 2018) [French version]
Related sites
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
World Health Organization Global (WHO)
World Health Organization Africa (AFRO)
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
Contact
Juan Lubroth
Chief Veterinary Officer
Animal Health Service
Rome, Italy
Juan.Lubroth@fao.org
Comments: EMPRES-Animal Health © FAO, 2018 Updated on: 9 October 2018

Ebola webpage established during Ebola virus disease outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Incident coordination

EMC-AH is developing leadership and expertise for incident coordination of animal health incidents at the national, regional and international levels.

EMC-AH incident coordination groups serve as the virtual platforms for global animal health threats to:

- maintain situational awareness and share updates from multiple sources
- provide guidance and tools for emergency response and risk communication
- assess response progress and strategies

A key activity during the reporting period was the establishment of the FAO Ebola Incident Coordination Group by EMC-AH at the request of the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer, to support the public health sector in the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The group was activated on 11 May 2018 and deactivated on 25 July 2018 and provided the following key outputs:

- served as a focal point within FAO, for WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), and for OIE
- established FAO Ebola virus disease webpage
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ebola/index.html>
- developed Ebola virus disease frequently asked questions
- developed key messages for Chief Veterinary Officers, FAO representatives and other animal health stakeholders
- developed risk communication messages for FAO communication officers
- sponsored two webinars: Ebola virus disease and animals: our knowledge to date and how animal health can support public health emergencies; New FAO risk assessment and partner activity update (FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency, OIE and PREDICT-2)

EMC-AH established a regional incident coordination group for Rift Valley fever in East Africa following reported outbreaks in the region. The action of the regional incident coordination group was later reinforced by a regional Rift Valley fever workshop.

EMC-AH both organized and participated in additional incident coordination groups throughout the reporting period to help address the sharing of information and coordination of resources for various animal health incidents:

- H5N8 avian influenza in Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- rabies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- African swine fever in Benin
- H5N1 avian influenza in Togo
- foot and mouth disease in Zambia



Incident coordination exercise in the EMC-AH Emergency Operations Centre at FAO headquarters, 2018

In addition, EMC-AH participates in the ongoing sharing of information relative to the African swine fever outbreaks in China. In the spirit of One Health, key international partners such as OIE and WHO are routinely engaged in the coordination efforts.

EMC-AH staff routinely participate and contribute to weekly updates produced by the FAO Animal Health Service's Disease Intelligence Unit – as part of FAO's hosting of the FAO-OIE-WHO Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) platform.

ACTION Restore the FAO Animal Health Emergency Operations Centre to function as the central coordinating body for emergency management practices in FAO animal health programmes.

An EMC-AH Emergency Operations Centre, first operationalized in 2007, continues to serve as the headquarters hub to support activities for FAO. The Emergency Operations Centre supports the needs of FAO's Food Chain Crisis Management Framework, including aquaculture and L3 emergencies.

ACTION Create national, regional and international Animal Health Emergency Operations Centre framework.

With the growing need for a coordinated response to the ever-increasing complexity of international animal disease emergencies, EMC-AH partnered with the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency in October 2017 to develop an Animal Health Emergency Operations Centre (AH-EOC) framework, with agreement from the Government of Cameroon to serve as a pilot country. The framework will assist Cameroon (and other countries), regions and international stakeholders to more effectively and efficiently coordinate animal health emergencies. The objective of the AH-EOC framework is to provide methodical and practical processes on the plans, equipment, training, operations and sustained management of an emergency operation centre for the coordination of animal health emergencies. A mission was conducted in April 2018 to Cameroon to plan the project with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Industry. A technical working group of experts has been established to support the development of the framework with the first meeting planned for December 2018.

[Read more](#) ◀



Portuguese military and civilian emergency response officials demonstrating the decontamination protocol on an injured “victim” following a chemical spill during the CELULEX exercise in Lisbon, Portugal on 16 October 2018



CELULEX exercise participants stand for picture after removing half-face air purifying respirators. Observers oversaw the participating military personnel detect, test and submit samples of an unknown biological agent in an abandoned building. From left to right: Dr Christine Uhlenhaut (OIE), Dr Maria Romano (FAO EMC-AH), Mr Gregory Hartl (WHO), Ms Lindsay MacKenzie (WHO)

Collaboration and resource mobilization

During the reporting period, EMC-AH strengthened its collaboration with existing partners and developed new partnerships with various organizations in order to achieve its mission.

EMC-AH is developing strong collaborative networks and resources as an essential component of achieving its mission.

ACTION Strengthen collaborative networks.

During the reporting period, EMC-AH put forth concerted effort to strengthen its collaboration with existing partners and develop new partnerships with various organizations to achieve its mission.

EMC-AH within the FAO-OIE-WHO tripartite

The FAO, OIE and WHO tripartite platform coordinates global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. EMC-AH works within the tripartite to help address issues relevant to animal health emergency management.

During the reporting period, EMC-AH joined others from FAO, OIE and WHO for the cross-sectoral effort to update and expand the 2008 Tripartite Zoonoses Guide (Zoonotic Diseases: A Guide to Establishing Collaboration between Animal and Human Health Sectors at the Country Level). In addition to reviewing the guide, EMC-AH led writing of the new chapter on planning and preparedness, and the chapter addressing coordinated investigation and response.

The guide is aimed at enhancing national implementation of the One Health approach and can be used by Member Countries or by FAO, OIE and WHO, separately or together within tripartite projects.

Key international partners

► OIE

EMC-AH and OIE continue to strengthen collaboration around the common space of animal disease emergency management. Consultation meetings and informal exchanges between EMC-AH and OIE staff occurred regularly throughout the reporting period. The commitments of the two organizations reflected in the November 2017 exchange of letters continues to work well for EMC-AH.

EMC-AH joined with OIE in an inaugural joint project between OIE, FAO and INTERPOL. The project aims to build resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime affecting animals. Through an ambitious three-year project (2019–2021),

the project partners aim to sustainably build global capacity to respond to animal health emergencies that result from intentional release of animal pathogenic biological agent. The project focus will be on assessing, training and exercising.

For the first time, EMC-AH participated in many OIE activities, such as the OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, a mission to the OIE Collaborating Centre for Biological Threat Reduction to explore joint training opportunities, and participation in the twenty-eighth Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to facilitate a panel and consult with OIE delegates about animal health emergency management issues at the national level. In reciprocity, OIE is engaged in the EMC-AH GEMP revision project and the AH-EOC framework project.

EMC-AH maintains an open invitation for OIE to participate in emergency preparedness and response missions, and incident coordination groups, as appropriate.

“OIE looks to EMC-AH as their key partner in emergency management. The OIE is confident that the newly adopted relationship between OIE and FAO will be more effective in building capacity and cooperation to strengthen resilience against disasters and emergencies. The launching of a three-year joint work programme will lead to concrete action and strengthened resilience at regional and international levels.”

Keith Hamilton

Senior Chargé de Mission, OIE

► WHO

EMC-AH and WHO continued to strengthen collaboration relative to zoonotic disease and One Health coordination. In addition to the routine coordination between EMC-AH and GOARN for zoonotic diseases of global concern, EMC-AH participated in significant GOARN events. The GOARN Meeting of Partners brought together GOARN partner institutions in a face-to-face interaction aimed at increasing participation of the 200 partner agencies in the current and planned activities and response missions of the Network. EMC-AH also contributed to the GOARN Response Network Leadership Training Development to scope out parameters and learning outcomes of the leadership training package with leadership training specialists and subject matter experts. EMC-AH envisions this initiative as a mechanism to plan, equip, train and exercise with GOARN partners to advance One Health preparedness, and better understand the issues surrounding animal health, veterinary systems, animal care, and food and agriculture consequences during emergency interventions. EMC-AH also provided technical expertise to help shape the WHO Global Health Emergencies project on the WHO Health and Security Interface: developing WHO operational awareness in the event of a deliberate outbreak.

The EMC-AH collaboration with Portuguese officials, military and private sector was well-received and may lead to new partnerships during the upcoming calendar year.

Foster multisectoral partnerships with other non-governmental organizations and private sector across the emergency management spectrum

During the reporting period EMC-AH expanded its collaboration with new partners.

EMC-AH provided technical expertise to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on two projects. The aim of the projects is to strengthen the international community's capability to respond to the deliberate use of biological agents, including pathogens of animal origin, particularly from the perspective of strengthening the operationalization of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention. Both projects address a broad and complex set of emergency preparedness, assistance and response issues.

EMC-AH engaged with INTERPOL for the first time and with OIE to develop the joint project to build resilience against agro-terrorism and agro-crime affecting animals.

EMC-AH provided technical expertise to the bio-preparedness field training exercise in October 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal. The annual Portuguese exercise series for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CELULEX) events are conducted by the army and supported by the civilian sector. The training is designed to instruct the Portuguese army to respond to biological, chemical, and radiological incidents. The exercise was a dual learning opportunity for EMC-AH and Portuguese officials. EMC-AH observed and provided technical feedback on the planning and operations of complex and multi-agency incidents involving military and civilian department coordination. EMC-AH gained further understanding of the country's disease monitoring and reporting through facility tours and networking with officials from the Portuguese Department of Health, including their Emergency Operations Centre, and the National Institute of Health. EMC-AH also presented a formal introduction, to military and civilian leadership, on the new EMC-AH strategic action plan and resources available to stakeholders to enhance emergency readiness. The EMC-AH collaboration with Portuguese officials, military and private sector was well received and may lead to new partnerships during the upcoming calendar year.



EMC-AH attended an overview and discussion at the Portugal Ministry of Health's Emergency Operation Centre at its headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal on 17 October 2018

EMC-AH advocated for partnerships with academia through experiential learning and knowledge exchange. Through volunteer and intern assignments, EMC-AH is investing in nurturing, mentoring and training the next generation of animal disease emergency managers and learning from other emergency management experts. During the reporting period, EMC-AH hosted volunteers from three different institutions:

“As a volunteer for EMC-AH, I was given the opportunity to gain insights into global animal health emergency management. I experienced how EMC-AH operates and collaborates with a network of organizations in order to reduce the impact of animal health emergencies. I was encouraged to speak to many colleagues from other platforms to learn as much as possible about the work conducted in EMC-AH and other teams. Participating in all meetings, calls and webinars, but also being involved in reviewing documents and creating new content was a very rewarding and valuable experience which I can take with me throughout my veterinary career.”

Ms Iris Hummel

Final year veterinary student, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

“As a livestock specialist who works in disaster management, my involvement in the GEMP manual revision at EMC-AH this past summer was an invaluable learning experience. Having the fortunate opportunity to continue my involvement in the GEMP technical working group will also allow me to expand collaborations with EMC-AH, while furthering future student and faculty opportunities. I was encouraged to participate in every facet of EMC-AH activities, allowing me to gain important insights into the many levels of global animal and human health emergencies that impact FAO’s overall mission. The time I spent working with the dedicated individuals at EMC-AH provided me with instrumental experiences in global animal health emergency management that will be used for years to come, and will allow me to better influence my own state and country’s preparedness.”

Dr Carla Huston

Visiting professor from the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, USA

“During my time volunteering with EMC-AH I was able to develop a deeper understanding of the practices and implementation of emergency management for animal health at a global level. With the support and guidance of the EMC-AH team I was able to contribute to the preparation and smooth running of the Rift Valley Fever Regional Technical Workshop in Eastern Africa. My deployment to the United Republic of Tanzania to support the technical programme of the workshop was an invaluable experience. It allowed me to more fully understand the difference that EMC-AH can make by assisting countries to prepare for and respond to animal emergencies as well as facilitating regional collaboration. My time with EMC-AH was richly rewarding and will ensure that I have a global outlook as I commence my career as a veterinarian.”

Mr Ben Kwok

Final year veterinary student, Sydney School of Veterinary Science
University of Sydney, Australia

ACTION Increase resource mobilization.

EMC-AH’s ability to take action would not have been possible without the support of its resource partners. The achievements presented in the activity report is a direct result of their generosity and the combined efforts of the beneficiaries, other partners and FAO team. The key resources of EMC-AH partners provided the capability for EMC-AH to assist countries to manage animal health emergencies, protect livelihoods and save lives.

► Australia

Funding from Australia supported Viet Nam’s H7N9 avian influenza emergency preparedness mission to enhance the country’s emergency preparedness capacity for H7N9 if introduced into the country through early detection and rapid response, particularly the ability to quickly contain the first incursion and disrupt its spread.

“EMC-AH has a unique and important role in promoting and advising on best practice emergency management for animal diseases. We see that there are collective benefits in improving emergency preparedness and response, including regional coordination of disease control.”

Dr Sam Hamilton

Director of Animal Disease Preparedness and Response,
Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

► France

France maintains an agreement to loan a senior advisor to assist with the undertaking of EMC-AH activities. France also supported the GEMP initiatives through the GEMP workshop for West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the revision of the GEMP manual.

► Japan

Funding from Japan supported four rapid response missions in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and Mauritania. It also supported a Rift Valley fever preparedness workshop in eastern Africa, and many other activities to assist countries in the event of transboundary animal disease outbreaks, gather information and intelligence on disease outbreaks worldwide for the benefit of member countries, support FAO's rinderpest post-eradication efforts, and strengthen partnerships with OIE, WHO and other agencies.

“To fight against disease outbreaks efficiently and successfully, FAO EMC-AH is ideal since it has well experienced experts and can support countries contaminated globally. As a resource partner, we understand that continuous support to reduce the risk of animal diseases in partner countries will benefit all the countries in the world.”

Dr Daisuke Tsukamoto

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Japan

► United States of America

The United States Department of Agriculture was instrumental in creating EMC-AH in 2006 and maintains an agreement to provide loaned experts to assist with the undertaking of activities in EMC-AH and the FAO-OIE-WHO Global Early Warning System platform.

The United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency awarded EMC-AH a project in September 2017 on the Framework for an Animal Health Emergency Operation Centre expected to progress throughout 2019.

ACTION Advocate for EMC-AH platform, increase strategic engagement with resource partners.

EMC-AH continues to conduct outreach and enhance its strategic engagement with multisectoral resource partners. Increased funding appears promising in the near future, including new resources to support the USAID Bureau for Global Health “Next Generation” project. ◀

Assisting
countries
to manage
animal health
emergencies
protects livelihoods
and saves lives

Contact

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www.fao.org/emergencies/how-we-work/prepare-and-respond/emc-ah/en/

