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# STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES WITH FOCUS ON FMD AND PPR AND EMERGING TADS IN THE NENA REGION

March 2022

SDGs:



Countries: Members of Arab Organization for Agricultural Development ([AOAD] Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia)

Project Code: TCP/RAB/3704

FAO Contribution: USD 215 000

Duration: 11 November 2019 – 30 December 2021

Contact Info: FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa  
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## Implementing Partners

Department of Livestock, Ministries of Agriculture.

## Beneficiaries

Members of AOAD, Veterinary Units within Ministries in target countries.

## Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

### CPF Iraq 2018-22

Government Priority 1: Resilience and restoration of agricultural livelihoods in regained areas of Iraq.

Output 1.5: Capacities for effective surveillance and control of trans-boundary plant and animal pests and diseases in border areas strengthened.

Government Priority 3: Increased, sustainable smallholder agricultural productivity for higher food security and nutrition.

Output 3.7: National capacities for the effective surveillance, diagnosis and control of trans-boundary plant and animal diseases and pests, including food safety, enhanced.

### CPF Jordan 2017-21

Government Priority 1: Disaster preparedness and response in the agricultural sector.

Output 1.3: National capacity for the control of trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs) enhanced.

### CPF Mauritania 2017-21

*Priorité du Gouvernement 1: Les productions agricoles, d'élevage et de pêche, créatrices d'emplois et de valeur ajoutée, inclusives et durables.*

*Produit 1.6: Les moyens de surveillance, de prévention et de lutte contre les maladies et ravageurs (transfrontaliers) des plantes et des animaux renforcés.*

### CPF Morocco 2017-20

*Domaine Prioritaire 1: Le développement durable, inclusif et efficace des systèmes alimentaires et forestiers.*

*Produit 1.6: Les moyens de surveillance, de prévention et de lutte contre les maladies et ravageurs (transfrontaliers) des plantes et des animaux sont renforcés.*

### CPF Sudan 2017-20

Government Priority 1: Enabling Policy and Institutional Environment for Food Security and Nutrition.

Output 1.4: Enhanced coordination mechanisms for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

### CPF Tunisia 2016-20

*Priorité gouvernementale no 1: La promotion des systèmes de production agricole, le renforcement de leurs compétitivités et l'assurance de leur durabilité.*

*Produit 1.4: Des capacités techniques renforcées des structures concernées en matière de lutte contre les maladies émergentes et transfrontalières y compris le criquet pèlerin.*

## BACKGROUND

Livestock is important in supporting livelihoods in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. Diseases affecting livestock have a devastating impact on animal productivity and production, as well as on human health; and, consequently, on the overall process of economic development. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR), and Middle East respiratory syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are among the diseases present in the NENA region. In addition, globalization and climate change represent risk factors that contribute to the increase in emerging and re-emerging animal and zoonotic diseases.

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) are a common concern among NENA countries, as they threaten local food production and country economies. While capacity-building programmes (training, surveillance, and control) for veterinary services on the prevention and control of TADs have been implemented in the region, these have not translated to a higher number of coordinated action across countries. This is due to the lack of timely information on various diseases, their movement across borders, and their potential impacts at the regional level. The lack of information limits decision-making and does not allow for early action.

Protecting livestock against diseases and preventing their spread are crucial elements in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Against this background, the project aimed to increase surveillance and early warning capacities in AOAD member countries, and to facilitate enhanced regional reporting, collaboration and joint-country action in TADs prevention and control.

## IMPACT

The project contributed to enhancing evidence-based coordination and actions to control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases. It is expected that this will contribute to improving the management of TADs outbreaks in the NENA region, and to enhancing animal health status in the long term.



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## SUSTAINABILITY

### 1. Capacity development

The AOAD played an important role in TADs control in the region during the project, liaising with the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), OIE, and other stakeholders; and frequently organizing further training sessions, workshops and expert consultations on TADs, as well as providing training through a Letter of Agreement (LoA).

The partnership with the GF-TADs was successfully reactivated, and there is constant interaction with OIE Regional Offices.

### 2. Gender equality

This cross-cutting area was not applicable to the project.

### 3. Environmental sustainability

As above.

### 4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

As above.

### 5. Technological sustainability

Networking on TADs through the developed regional TADs Web site is a powerful tool, interconnecting countries not only for information sharing, but also for coordination.

With regard to the development of local knowledge, capacity building was carried out in a local context, for example with animal health professionals on RVF in Mauritania, or LSD outbreak containment in Lebanon.

In addition, the project engaged very active national veterinary service professionals, who provide animal health services, paying particular attention to prophylactic measures against TADs, such as vaccination.

### 6. Economic sustainability

This cross-cutting area was not applicable to the project.

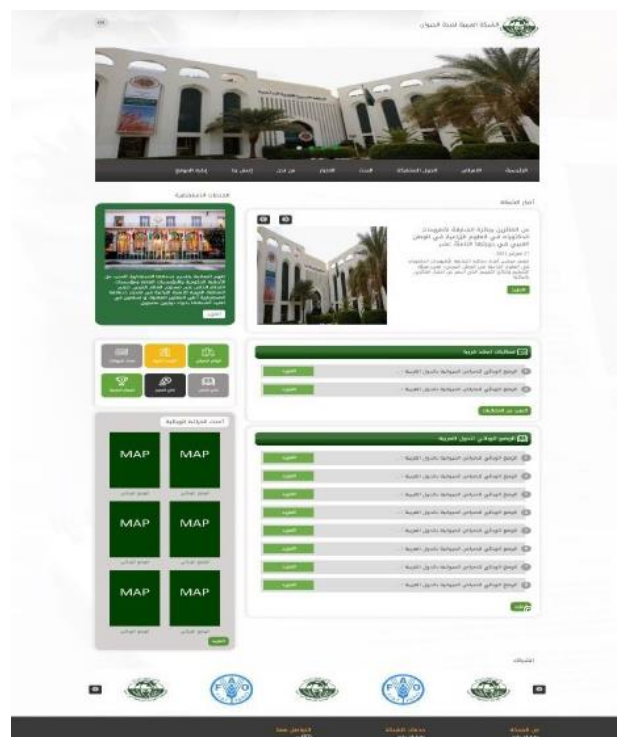
## DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

### Documents

- ❑ **AOAD & FAO.** April 2020. Letter of Agreement (LoA) between AOAD and FAO.
- ❑ **FAO.** September 2020. Proposed methodology to review Animal Disease Surveillance and Reporting Systems in 10 countries of the NENA Region. 8 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** October 2020. Questionnaire for countries online (available upon request).
- ❑ **FAO.** November 2020. *Consultation sur la Surveillance et la lutte contre les maladies animales transfrontalières et zoonotiques en Mauritanie.* 15 pp.
- ❑ **Sayed, S., AOAD.** December 2020. Report on TADs Training course. 3 pp.
- ❑ **AOAD.** May 2021. Final Report Strengthening regional coordination and collaboration for the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases in the NENA region. 13 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** May 2021. *Rapport final consultation en urgence en santé animale, TCP/RAB/3704.* 11 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** May 2021. *Formation des formateurs sur l'épidémiologie, le diagnostic, la prévention et la lutte contre la FVR, la FHCC et l'IAHP, Idini du 30 avril au 4 mai 2021.* 9 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** July 2021. Review on Animal Disease Surveillance and Reporting Systems in Lebanon. 18 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** November 2021. Strengthening of efforts of One-Health-Driven AMR Control in Jordan, Awareness Workshop in Jordan at the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) report. 3 pp.

### Outreach material

- ❑ **AOAD.** Arab Animal Health Network Page.



## ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<b>Expected Impact</b>	<b>Animal health status improved and TADs outbreaks decreased in the Near East and North Africa Region</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	Enhanced evidence-based coordination and actions to control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases		
	<b>Indicator</b>	Number of countries have implemented standardized Reporting and Surveillance protocols for the main TADs.	
	<b>Baseline</b>	0	
	<b>End Target</b>	10 countries.	
	<b>Comments and follow-up action to be taken</b>	Reporting and surveillance procedures were improved, and a constructive information exchange on TAD occurrence and control among the participating countries is now in place. The AOAD Web site on TADs was developed and is now online, and can be accessed by all countries for updates and information exchange. This contributes to improved coordination of activities in TAD control.	
<b>Output 1</b>	Capacity development plan to strengthen surveillance and early warning for disease control is developed		
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
	Capacity development plan to strengthen surveillance and early warning for disease control.	Developed.	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	Not developed.		
<b>Comments</b>	In order to develop a capacity-development plan to strengthen surveillance and early warning for disease control, a questionnaire was sent to the countries, including, among others, questions to determine training needs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, most of the training activities took place online.		
<b>Activity 1.1</b>	Establishment of a Steering/Project coordination committee (PCC) composed of representatives of FAO, AOAD and representatives from 10 countries		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	The establishment of a PCC was achieved, with representatives from FAO, AOAD, OIE and Veterinary Services from the ten countries of the region.	
<b>Activity 1.2</b>	Recruitment of 1 International and 10 National Consultants for drafting of assessment report and associated Action Plan		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	For the drafting of the assessment report and associated Action Plan, an International Consultant was recruited and National Consultants in three Countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania). FAO opted not to recruit National Consultants in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, but to deal directly with the veterinary services in these countries.	
<b>Activity 1.3</b>	Assessment/review coordination of TADS surveillance and control capacity under the AOAD TADS program by consultants		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Yes	
	<b>Comments</b>	The coordination of TADs surveillance and control capacity, in line with the AOAD-TADS program, was assessed, and country needs were evaluated through a questionnaire developed by the International Consultant and sent to the countries. Lebanon and Mauritania developed detailed reports on the surveillance and control system of TADs in their countries.	
<b>Activity 1.4</b>	Regional workshop for presentation of review results and development of capacity building action plan		
	<b>Achieved</b>	Partially	
	<b>Comments</b>	The achievement of this activity was partial, as related activities had to take place online, and a joint regional workshop with physical presence could not be organized due to the COVID-19 situation. Capacity-building needs and capacity building to control TADs in the region were covered in the virtual workshop, entitled "TADs –current situation, diagnostic methods and control", which AOAD organized in the framework of the LoA.	

<b>Output 2</b>	Increased capacity of regional TADs network for surveillance and control		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of countries where national experts are trained for adequate surveillance and control.	10	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	0		
<b>Comments</b>	The ten countries analysed their training needs, and national staff participated in the AOAD training programme on TADs. In addition, specific training workshops on diseases were organized (Mauritania on RVF, Lebanon on LSD, and AMR as a related topic with increased importance in disease control in Jordan).		
<b>Activity 2.1</b>	Finalizing the Action Plan on Regional TADs Surveillance		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	A new Action Plan was not developed as originally envisaged; instead, the participating countries' Action Plans on Regional TADs Surveillance were strengthened; and existing plans, such as AOAD-TADs, GF-TADs, the EuFMD, and PPR eradication campaigns, were supported and improved.	
<b>Activity 2.2</b>	Provision of training for surveillance and reporting as well as other capacity development activities as specified in the plan		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>The AOAD training programme on TADs in the region, entitled "TADs –current situation, diagnostic methods and control", was organized through an LoA. It covered the diseases and topics requested by the countries in the questionnaire, and addressed diagnostic methods and control, with a specific focus on RVF, PPR, FMD and brucellosis. It was attended by 55 participants from 17 countries. Owing to the COVID-19 situation, it was held online; and online consultations with consultants were also organized.</p> <p>Other capacity-building activities included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Training on RVF control and HPAI in Mauritania.</li> <li>– Training and awareness online workshop in Lebanon on lumpy skin disease (LSD) control.</li> <li>– AMR awareness workshop in Jordan.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity 2.3</b>	Provision of basic logistical support to enable surveillance functions to some member countries		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania and Sudan were supported in TAD control, through the provision of diagnostic test kits and laboratory material for RVF, FMD and brucellosis.</p> <p>Vaccines were provided, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pasteurella vaccination for Mauritania.</li> <li>– LSD for Lebanon.</li> <li>– PPR vaccines for Palestine.</li> </ul>	
<b>Activity 2.4</b>	Production of quarterly regional Bulletin (online) showing TADs trends in the region and disseminating gathered TADs information		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The AOAD Web site on TADs was developed and is now online, and can be accessed by all countries for updates and information exchange. This contributes to improved coordination of activities in TAD control.	
<b>Output 3</b>	Enhanced regional capacity for TADS coordination through development of standardized tools and procedures for surveillance and coordination		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Regional TADS Coordination Protocol agreed and in place.	Coordination protocol agreed by countries and published.	Yes
<b>Baseline</b>	Not developed.		
<b>Comments</b>	The procedures and forms for reporting were reviewed. Suggestions for modifications were made, where necessary, and aligned with the requirements of reporting. This was carried out at both national and international levels, to ensure their compliance with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) disease-reporting requirements.		
<b>Activity 3.1</b>	Review and standardize coordination and reporting mechanisms for TADs		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The procedures and forms for reporting were assessed, to ensure that countries used appropriate forms and applied standardized procedures in the surveillance and control of TADs. Reporting at an international level, especially regarding outbreak events to OIE, was reviewed. Standardized reporting procedures are now followed by the ten participating countries in the region.	

**Partnerships and Outreach**

For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

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