



GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY PROGRAM

FACT SHEET: FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

OVERVIEW

As part of its Global Health Security Program, USAID partners with the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) to provide technical assistance to mitigate risk and build critical capacity in partner countries to prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks of zoonotic disease and combat antimicrobial resistance. FAO supports USAID's Global Health Security investments by working to reduce the spread and impact of zoonoses and stop the emergence and spread of potential epidemics and pandemics at the animal source. USAID partners with the UN FAO's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in over 45 countries globally. This partnership supports USAID's Global Health Security investments through zoonotic disease preparedness and response, strengthening national laboratory systems, improving biosafety and biosecurity, scaling up the One Health/veterinary workforce, and reducing antimicrobial resistance.

PROJECT GOALS

USAID's Global Health Security work is implemented by FAO's ECTAD, which plans and delivers animal health assistance to FAO member countries where USAID ECTAD teams are positioned to respond to the threat of transboundary animal health events. The goal of these efforts is to improve national capacity to prevent AMR, pre-empt the emergence of infectious zoonotic diseases to prevent pandemics throughout Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Asia. To achieve this goal, FAO focuses its efforts on nine key areas of work — five of which are part of USAID's contributions to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA).

- 1. Avian Influenza:** Prevention measures including guidance on poultry production, biosecurity and sanitary standards, and vaccination, as well as early detection and rapid response.
- 2. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS):** Surveillance and analysis to understand why, how, and where the disease is spreading and its associated risk factors.
- 3. Livestock Policy for Global Health Security:** Policy guidance to ensure sustainable and safe livestock production — assuring livelihoods, food security and nutrition.
- 4. Emergency equipment and supply stockpile:** Deploying PPE and laboratory consumables for onsite rapid response and containment of disease outbreaks.
- 5. Antimicrobial Resistance:** Prevent the emergence and spread of drug resistant microbial pathogens and promote judicious use of antibiotics.
- 6. Zoonotic Disease:** Develop mechanisms for surveillance and coordinated One Health responses and adopt policies and practices that minimize the risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases from animals into human populations.
- 7. Biosafety and Biosecurity:** Identify, secure, and monitor dangerous pathogens in various facilities according to best practices — to avoid unintentional exposure or release, and ensure the proper handling and storage of dangerous biological material.
- 8. National Laboratory Systems :** Safely transport and accurately detect and identify pathogens in biosafe and biosecure conditions through an effective nationwide laboratory network.
- 9. Workforce Development :** Train a diverse veterinary workforce capable of effectively collaborating with other health disciplines that include physicians, biostatisticians, biologists, ecologists, scientists and agriculturalists, building capacity to meet international health regulations.

FAO IN ACTION

- FAO works with countries to support electronic reporting of animal diseases including through the Event Mobile Application (EMA-i). This technology enhances surveillance and early warning of animal disease outbreaks, including zoonotic diseases with potential public health impact, simplifies data collection and facilitates timely information-sharing among all stakeholders, from livestock farmers to district and chief veterinary officers.
- Since 2006, USAID has partnered with FAO to support the control and prevention of zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance to mitigate their impact on humans, domestic animals, and the environment. As part of this, FAO provides critical applied training programs for ministries, animal health workers, actors along the animal value chain, and community members. Training programs include the In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) program, and Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV), Global Emergency Management Practice (GEMP), all aimed at improving the disease detection and response skills of the animal sector. To date, these programs have been implemented, in coordination with Ministries of Agriculture and/or Livestock, in 30 countries and resulted in more than 6,700 graduates.
- The USAID-FAO partnership has aided the development of animal health surveillance systems as a step toward developing coordinated surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases and pathogens identified as joint priorities for both public and animal health authorities. To improve these systems, FAO has used the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET) in 22 countries in Africa and Asia to develop country-specific action plans. The SET is a comprehensive, standardized assessment of animal health disease surveillance focused on approximately 90 indicators.
- FAO has assisted 17 countries to put in place Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), a powerful tool to improve the management of laboratory data and external reporting to enable early detection and targeted, cost-effective response to zoonotic disease outbreaks. These systems optimize the laboratory system by providing interactive lab capacity maps, sample transport routing, and capacity development analysis.

COUNTRY MAP



* FAO implements projects for USAID in over 45 countries globally; Benin, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos PDR, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, South Pacific Regional, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia