



FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADs**  
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

## **Creation of a Regional Steering Committee (Middle East) by the FAO and OIE in April 2006 in Beirut (Lebanon) for The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs)**

### **1- Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East**

GF-TADS Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for the Middle East (ME) was meeting for the first time after its creation by the FAO and OIE in April 2006 in Beirut, Lebanon.

**MAIN OBJECTIVES:** Adapting policies and programs to the region needs with regard to epidemiology and prevalence of priority diseases

#### **Members:**

Dr George Khoury (SYRIA)	(President)
Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO)	(Vice President)
Dr Dewan Sibartie (OIE)	(Vice President)
Dr Salman Abdelnabi (Bahrain)	
Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)	
Dr Obeida Moudawar (Lebanon)	
Dr Aristarhos Seimenis (WHO/MZCC)	
Dr Zuheir Hallaj (WHO/EMRO)	
Dr Saddiq Al Awni (AOAD)	

#### **Permanent Secretary:**

Dr Ghazi Yehia  
OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East

#### **Observers:**

Dr Linda Logan (USDA/APHIS)  
Dr René Bessin (AU-IBAR)  
Dr Kiran Johar (Australia)  
Dr Charles Martins Ferreira (France)

**a- Role of the Regional Steering Committee:**

The regional Steering Committee will determine the regional policy, adopt the budget, planning and running the activities and coordinate with the international donors, organizations, NGOs and stakeholders to support the activities and supervise their implementation.

**b- Establishment of a permanent secretariat:**

A permanent secretariat will be established to perform administrative, logistical, budgetary and organizational activities for the GF-TADs. The secretariat will be located at the OIE /RRME offices, Beirut (Lebanon), with close collaboration with the FAO/NENA, Cairo (Egypt).

**c- Establishment of National Liaison Points (NLP):**

Every country will be requested to identify a National Liaison Officer (NLO) to coordinate the activities of the GFTADS within the country, and the regional GF-TAD's secretariat.

## **2- Regional and Sub-Regional Strategies:**

- Developing a strategic vision document on the regional harmonized policies for the control of animal diseases and zoonoses in the Middle East, aimed at capacity building of Veterinary Services infrastructures and animal disease control. This document will include an activity plan and a provisional budget.
- Strengthening the VS infrastructures through applying the PVS (Performance, vision and strategy) tool for evaluation of veterinary service
- Disease Surveillance and identification of the main TAD's in the region
- Developing / strengthening of laboratory diagnosis capabilities.
- Developing strategies for the eradication of TAD's based on the regional experiences and the lessons learned from GREP.

## **3- Fund raising including the establishment of GF-TADs' Regional Fund to support the GF-TADs activities:**

A regional Trust Fund (RTF) will be created to manage all fund activities in the region relevant to the GF-TADs. Funding activities will not only include direct payments by different donors but will also include training opportunities, equipment and material contributions and even emergency technical support.

## **4- Creation of a regional centre for animal health activities:**

This will include the establishment of the Regional Animal Health Center as agreed on which will be the technical tool for the GF-TADS in the region where all animal health activities including planning, training and all other technical and daily activities will be performed. The center will act as a central point for consultancy and animal health expertise for the region. It will also act as the base for networking the expertise delivery to different countries as well as

a Regional Crisis Management Unit (RCM) to provide the necessary technical support to any part of the region in case of a TAD event.

The regional centre will support all capacity building activities in the region.

### **5- Establishment of a regional GF-TADs website:**

The website will have a regional database for technical expertise, regional basic documents and agreements and all data entries will be available through a log on code for all partners. All parties will be allowed to make public all available information related to the activities at this website.

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