



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

5th Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 26 April 2012

Recommendation 2

Prevention and control of priority diseases in the Middle East (other than FMD)

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The Steering Committee of GF-TADs for the Middle East considers that priority diseases for the region include foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, Rift Valley fever, brucellosis, sheep and goat pox, bluetongue, peste des petits ruminants and glanders;
2. Between January 2007 and July 2012, 11 Veterinary Services from Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East have been evaluated using the OIE-PVS Tool and 5 have undergone a PVS-Gap Analysis;
3. Since the last Steering Committee the epidemiological situation in some cases have improved due to concerted actions, some others have been aggravated due to the high contagiousness of the disease and risky import and breeding practices (e.g. FMD);
4. There is thus a need for continuous cooperation and concerted actions between the GF-TADs Steering Committee for the Middle East and neighbouring regions for preventing and controlling diseases with major social, economic and public health impact posing a threat to the Middle Eastern countries;
5. Although GF-TADs is intended to coordinate mechanisms, action should be implemented by the National Veterinary Services;

6. The continued use of Rinderpest vaccine in some countries for peste des petits ruminants control.

THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Support be continued for the highly pathogenic avian influenza prevention programmes, including the neighbouring countries of North Africa and Mediterranean sub regions.
2. Peste des petits ruminants, bluetongue and sheep and goat pox be targeted as a priority TADs for the region, and programmes such as those implemented in Turkey, including the registration of small ruminants herds and their movements, be implemented in other neighbouring countries. Stress be put on awareness campaigns directed at breeders and private veterinarians.
3. Countries of the Middle East must adhere to Rinderpest post-eradication recommendations.
4. Countries be strongly discouraged to use the Rinderpest vaccine for pest des petits ruminants control. Cattle be considered as a possible indicator of pest des petits ruminants infection or virus circulation where vaccination is likely to be practised.
5. A global strategy of pest des petits ruminants control be developed by the OIE-FAO GF-TADs working group and that OIE considers adding pest des petits ruminants as a new disease with an official control status.
6. Countries should harmonize their existing national programme for the control of brucellosis with a sub-regional/regional approaches including assessment of critical control points, small ruminants identification and registration system and improving national laboratory capabilities, benefiting from the assistance of accredited laboratories in the region such as the Pendik Post-Twinning Workshop.
7. Rapid and effective action be taken to prevent potential spread of Rift Valley fever to the Middle Eastern countries in particular through:
 - control of movement of animals and products and implementation of quarantine measures in accordance with OIE standards;

- setting contingency plans for Rift Valley fever including preventing potential vector and virus activities.
8. Donors and technical partners continue to support Veterinary Services of the region based on OIE-PVS and PVS-Gap Analysis reports.
 9. GF-TADs Steering Committee for the Middle East maintains close relations with other Regional GF-TADs Steering Committees, Africa in particular, and collaborates as appropriate with Regional Specialised Organisations (RSOs) and Regional Support Units (RSUs) of those regions to prevent and control priority diseases present in neighbouring countries.
 10. Continuous contacts be maintained between FAO/OIE in order to select and provide the most relevant experts for emergency missions.