



**The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GF-TADs regional steering committee  
for the Middle East  
8-9 June 2022**

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**Background:**

In consideration of the outcomes and recommendations of previous GF-TADs Regional and Global Steering Committees meetings, and the consultations organised since the GSC 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to develop the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 and the adoption of this strategy by the GF-TADs management committee in November 2021; there was a need to engage the regional GF-TADs in specific and achievable targets, such as:

1. To connect the GF-TADs Strategy for 2021-2025 to the broader context of the One Health approach,
2. To consider local socio-economic contexts in the planning and implementation phases of TADs control strategies,
3. To encourage strong engagement of all concerned stakeholders at the regional level to cooperate through the GF-TADs coordination mechanism, from the design phase of control strategies to the implementation phase.
4. To monitor the implementation of the GF-TADs regional strategy by using simple key performance indicators, that are being developed under the GF-TADs, to establish easy and feasible monitoring actions.

Based on the above, the 9<sup>th</sup> regional steering committee was held on the 13-14 of June 2022, in a virtual way, to evaluate progress made in the implementation of previous meetings outcomes and discuss future activities, with **main objectives:**

Objective 1: Facilitate collaboration and maximize synergies among the countries, organisations, and stakeholders:

Objective 2: Provide technical guidance to improve disease prevention, surveillance, early detection, notification, and rapid response systems especially for priority diseases (FMD, PPR, HPAI and Rabies).

Objective 3: Promote adequate governance of Veterinary Services through capacity building programs at national and regional levels.

Objective 4: Ensure adequate funding resources to support sustainable implementation of GF-TADs action plan.

## Summary of the event:

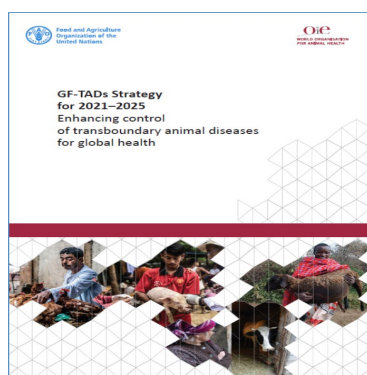
The agenda of the meeting had two days program:

### A- The first day: Monday 14/6/22 (facilitator: Dr G. Yehia, WOAHR Middle East)

- a- The session started with a welcome address by Dr Ibrahim Kassem, chair of the regional steering committee, followed by Dr Keith Sumption (FAO) and Dr Neo Mapitse (WOAH).
- b- The chair gave the floor to **Dr Alexander Fediaevsky (GF-TADs regional coordinator), for the recommendations of the 3 MC meetings: MC 37/38/39 and the theory of Change.**

Dr Fediaevsky presented the objectives of the global strategy for 21-25 as to:

- Establish strategies for priority TADs at the sub-regional, regional, and global levels.
- Develop and maintain capacities to prevent and control TADs.
- Improve sustainability of strategies to control priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships.



Dr Alexander presented the points of the theory of change and the core activities of the strategy, reminding that the implementation relies on contribution of all stakeholders.

### c- Outcomes of regional meetings in 2021: (Dr Qassim)

Dr Qassim highlighted briefly the major activities included in the operational plan, such as support to member countries in the surveillance and control of major diseases: FMD, PPR, RVF, Brucellosis, and Rabies, as well as any other disease seen as important to the region such as LSD, and HPAI. The work plan will also take in consideration the reinforcement of the capacity of the Veterinary Services, as a major component for the success of the plan.

The way forward is dedicated to:

- Establish strategies for the new priority TADs, at all levels
- Develop and maintain capacities to prevent and control of TADs
- Improve the sustainability of strategies to control priority TADs through multi-disciplinary partnerships.

d- **AOAD comments and suggestions: Dr Mahmoud Alhanatleh (AOAD TADS coordinator)**, presented three comments and related proposals:

*Comment 1:* As there is diversity in the priorities of member states in the planning of combating transboundary diseases, it is proposed to start by reviewing these priorities and their current situation at the national level, so to determine the actual needs to improve the capacity of the VS in combating the targeted diseases, and thus to determine what is common for the regional countries, to enable planning and implementation of programs that fit the actual needs and priorities of the region.

*Comment 2:* Lack of resources and the actual economic crisis, demonstrate the inability of many countries to implement the required activities according to national plans. Accordingly, it is necessary to provide technical & financial assistance to implement the planned activities through regional and international organizations, and to continue capacity-building programs for veterinary services staff.

*Comment 3:* In order to join efforts and avoid duplication, it is advisable for partner organisations to hold periodic meetings to determine priorities based on a scientific study the assembled data from countries, for more effective use of the resources available, and sharing roles in the implementation of global, regional and national plans for the surveillance and control of TADs.

e- **Eu FMD (Dr Fabrizio Rosso (Deputy executive Secretary)).**

Based on this experience in collaboration and coordination with international and regional actors in the Middle East, EuFMD proposes the following joint areas for discussion and agreement:

- Enhancing the early warning system and the capacity for preparedness and response to animal health incidents by organizing a regional workshop where countries can discuss and agree on a mechanism for sharing risk information.
- The successful public-private partnership (PPP) model in Sudan can be expanded to other countries in the region where the EuFMD and regional GF-TAD in the Middle East can act as a catalyst to promote PPP in the region based on the areas outlined in the strategic plans of the countries.
- support the countries in the region in prioritizing interventions to improve the control plans through training on the FMD self-assessment tool SAT.
- Improving surveillance and early warning of FAST diseases in the region by promoting the implementation of Syndromic surveillance that can allow the real-time collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of health-related data to enable the early

identification of potential human or animal health threats requiring public and/or animal health action.

- f- **Dr F. Mayen (Senior Livestock development officer)** presented briefly on the GF-TADs One Health interface, where the UN Environment Programme joins alliance to implement the One Health approach and the tripartite became quadripartite with the strong partnership to accelerate coordinated strategy on human, animal, and ecosystem health, with 6 action tracks:

- Action Track 1: Strengthen One Health collaborative capacity to promote health and healthy systems
- Action Track 2: Mitigate the risk of emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics
- Action Track 3: Reduce the burden of endemic/neglected zoonoses
- Action Track 4: Mitigate food safety risks across the food chain
- Action Track 5: Antimicrobial resistance
- Action Track 6: Embed the environment dimension fully into One Health actions

Furthermore, Dr Mayen review the priority diseases prevailing in the region, notably the zoonotic ones, and summarized the actions taken by the GF TADs strategic plan.

**B- The second day: Wednesday 14/6/22. (Facilitator: Dr.Freiderike Mayen FAO)  
(Interactive session to discuss priorities):**

**Dr Abdulhakim Mahmoud, chairman** of the General Organisation for Veterinary Services in Egypt (GOVS) for FMD, noted in his presentation on FMD in Egypt that the VS implemented FMD control measures (concerning the main objective of the RBSP) since 2017, and the objectives of the RBSP are:

- Reduce FMD transmission from high-risk markets to small farms & smallholders.
- Reduce FMD transmission in the winter season within 3 years.
- Conduct of massive vaccination campaigns all over governorates 3 times/year focusing on large ruminants one of them at autumn season.
- preparation of awareness program before and during vaccination campaigns.
- Improve biosecurity measures concerning professionals.
- Understanding the risk of the viral introduction at different borders and trials to reduce transmission by smuggling animals from borders.
- Establishment of contingency plan in case of incursion.

Dr Abdulhakim noted that Egypt is progressing actively in the FMD PCP to reach stage 3 and present the RBSP for official recognition by WOA in the near future.

**Dr Fajer Al Salloum**, Director of Animal Wealth resources in Bahrain presented the case study of PPR in Bahrain as:

- Bahrain has only one land border with KSA (King Abdullaah Bridge).
- PPR has never been reported in indigenous livestock in Bahrain
- PPR vaccination is prohibited.
- The Veterinary Authority in Bahrain is devoted towards strengthening its surveillance and early warning systems to maintain its health status as a historically PPR-free country.
- Continuous passive surveillance (at all entry points “sea, air and land”).
- In addition, clinical surveillance is carried out on farms and slaughterhouses levels.

**Dr Rachel Dodeen**, Head of the quarantine department in Jordan, based on the recent FMD/PPR, identifies the priority gaps to be addressed and what should be the indicator of success.

**Jordan was placed at stage 1 of the PPR Strategy stepwise approach following the self-evaluation using the revised PMAT 2021 and 2022.** There were enhancements in different technical elements, but the overall average % for stage 1 has to reach 80% or more:

Dr Dodeen identified the main gaps as:

- Need to improve surveillance with expertise in epidemiology
- Improve Vaccination agenda and post-vaccination monitoring
- Develop a national strategic plan with specific regulations for PPR
- The national PPR committee should have different stockholders.

**In his presentation on the regional activities of the GF-TADs, Dr. Yehia** noted that after a long silence, the regional GF-TADs steering committee became active starting from 2021 by electing the new chair and the new board and updating its strategic plan for 21-25 in line with the global one, and based on the aim to:

- Provide feedback on 2021 activities and outcomes
- Improve priority development.
- Maintain close collaboration with the global platform
- Agree on regional strategic actions with partners
- Strengthen coordination between countries and the Regional Advisory Group, and
- Identify potential donors and ensure sustainable funding.

For this last goal, presently the GF TADs activities depend on the support of partner organisations, with the will to start communication to attract potential donors especially in advocating for feasible projects that benefit the regional stakeholders, especially within the PPP concept (Public-private partnership), and in the trade Domaine.

In addition, and to facilitate understanding and communication, the secretariat translated major relevant documents to Arabic and published many others on the regional website. A special folder will be dedicated to the GFTADs regional inputs.

Several questions are raised:

- How to ensure the RAG(s) effectively contribute to following progress in PPR and FMD programmes in the region. United Arab Emirates (ToR of RAG)

Should RAGs for FMD and PPR be merged to allow better efficiency? RSC?

- Are all influencing stakeholders from the region engaged in priority TADs control, are they all aware of what is expected from them?

- Do countries have multiannual financing plans for the control of the priority TADs? Can regional experience/success situation be shared (in particular countries that managed to demonstrate to ministries of finance the return on investment)?

The **Global Secretariat (Dr Bouda Ahmadi)** presented an update on GF-TADs Partnerships and financing panel (PFP) establishment on May 22 and the outcomes of the first meeting were mainly:

- To maintain the existing number of members to 13 and additional members might be required.
- Subgroups may be needed, and additional members might be required
- The support of GFTADs technical officers particularly the GS and other secretariats to assist and guide PFP members when addressing particular topics.
- The need to better define regional interactions and how to better partner with regional and how to link to global work expectations from international organizations.
- The GS will follow-up with the PFP on the work to support the costing for PPR GEP II and support resource mobilization, partnerships, and engagement to implement the programs by providing recommendations.

and finally, would like to receive feedback/answers to the following questions. Answering these questions will inform the PFP to better engage with colleagues in the region and provide potential assistance and guidance on partnerships and financing:

- Are all influencing stakeholders from the region engaged in priority TADs control?
- Are they all aware of what is expected from them?
- Do countries have multiannual financing plans for the control of the priority TADs?
- Can regional experience/success situation be shared (inter-ministerial coordination)

Most of the answers from countries are formulated as:

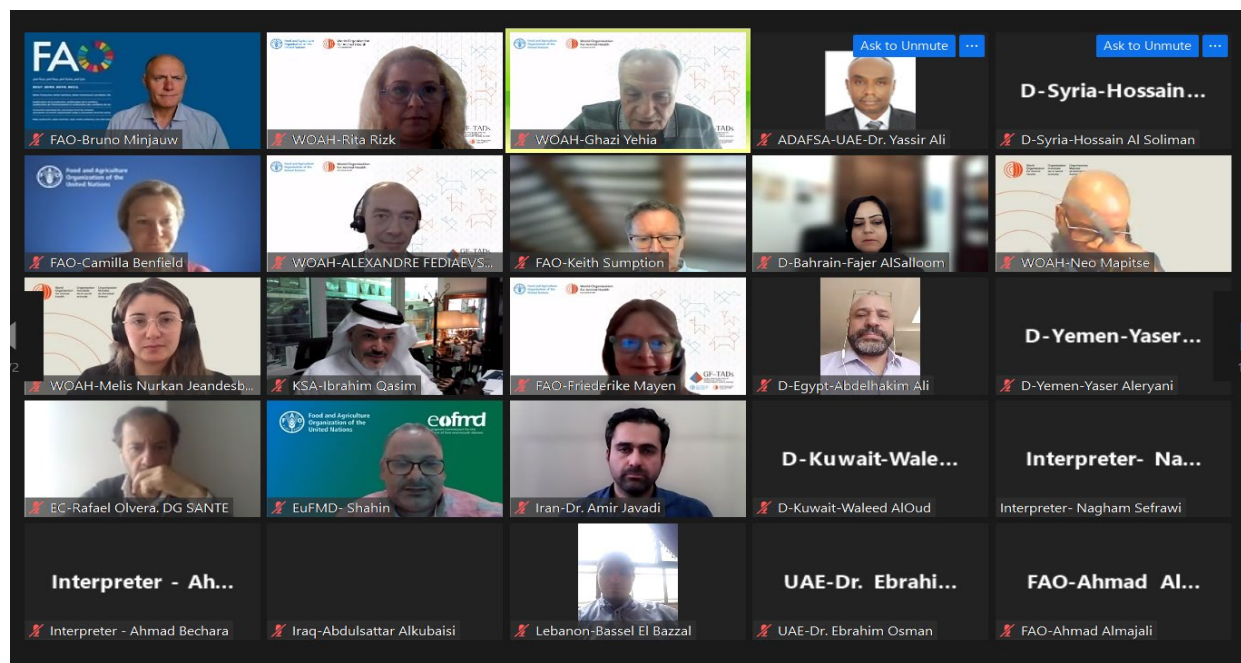
- All priority diseases are notifiable according to the national legislation and Intense efforts are made to meet PCP and PMAT requirements to achieve progress in the control of these diseases.
- In the region, many stakeholders, particularly from the public sector, are engaged in the control of prioritized TADs. However, there is a need to engage the private sector in

concerted actions for controlling TADs. Due to the limited resources owned by the veterinary services and opportunities that could be provided by the private sector, the maximum benefits could be obtained by coordination between both sectors

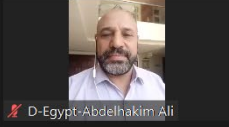

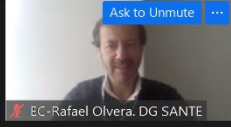
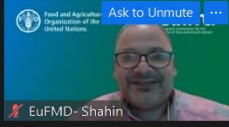
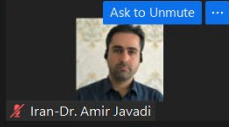

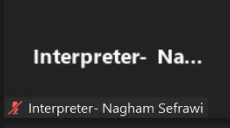


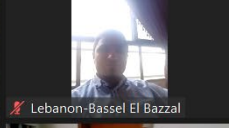
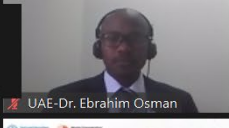
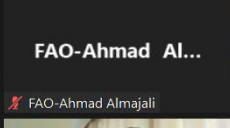

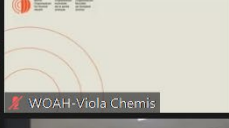

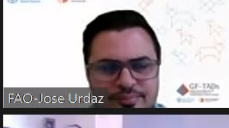

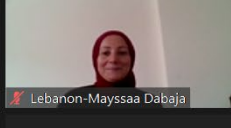

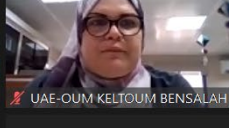
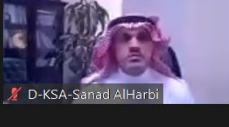
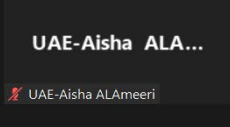

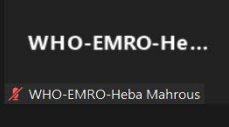
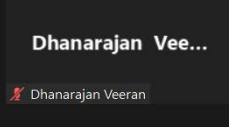
**Conclusion:** Proposed points for the RSC 9 Middle East:

- The momentum of the regional GF-TADs in the region should be kept and it is important to continue.
- Acknowledge that the overall objective of the GF-TADs strategy is around three axes: strategies to address priorities, capacity building, and financing and partnership.
- Confirm the commitment of WOA and FAO to the priority TADs strategies and continuous support to the improvement of Veterinary Services
- Acknowledge that it will take time to see the impact of what we are doing but it is important for the regional members and partners to exchange and identify the most suitable solution to their concerns and organise themselves to seek support from the global level.
- Inform that the MC is very attentive to the good collaboration between WOA and FAO at the regional level and that RSC meetings help to have more influence on decision-making for TADs control.

**The key message of the 9<sup>th</sup> regional GF TADs is to strengthen collaboration with members and partner organisations to make regional work more visible to stakeholders, so to achieve the expected outcomes of the regional strategic plan.**





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