

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



World Organisation for Animal Health Founded as OIE



## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT Global control of African swine fever** A GF-TADs initiative

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT** Global control of African swine fever

### A GF-TADs initiative

Published by the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

#### **Required citation:**

FAO & World Organisation for Animal Health. 2022. Global control of African swine fever. A GF-TADs initiative – 2021 annual report. Rome and Paris. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2142en

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by WOAH or FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of WOAH or FAO.

#### ISBN 978-92-5-136912-8 (FAO)

ISBN 978-92-95121-49-2 (WOAH) © FAO and World Organisation for Animal Health, 2022



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that WOAH or FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of WOAH or FAO logos is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons license. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization www.wipo.int/ amc/en/mediation/rules and any arbitration will be in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Publications of the World Organisation for Animal Health are available either on the WOAH website (www.woah.org) or can be purchased through the WOAH online bookshop (www.woah.org/en/ebookshop/).

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/ publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

# CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMSIV
EXECUTIVE SUMMARYV
PREAMBLE
OBJECTIVE 1 Improve the capabilities of countries to prevent, respond to, control or eradicate African swine fever using World Organisation for Animal Health International Standards and best practices based on the most up-to-date scientific research
Intermediate outcome 1.1. Improved understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of veterinary services1
Intermediate outcome 1.2. Improved capability to conduct risk assessment
Intermediate outcome 1.3. Improved capability to conduct risk management
Intermediate outcome 1.4. Improved capability to conduct risk communication8
OBJECTIVE 2
framework for the global control of African swine fever. 11
Intermediate outcome 2.1. Disease information is transparent, accurate, up-to-date and accessible11
Intermediate outcome 2.2. Effective regional and global expert networks strengthen intersectoral coordination and cooperation 13
Intermediate outcome 2.3. ASF global research is active and coordinated and addresses real needs
OBJECTIVE 3 Facilitate business continuity17
Intermediate outcome 3.1. International standards for safe trade are understood, accepted and promoted
Intermediate outcome 3.2. International standards are implemented effectively20
CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION FOR 202223

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	
AP	Asia-Pacific
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ASF	African swine fever
ASFV	ASF virus
AU-IBAR	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
COPEG	Panama - United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CVP	Permanent Veterinary Committee
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EMC-AH	Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GARA	Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance
GF-TADs	Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GI	Global initiative
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
РРР	public-private partnerships
RA	risk assessment
RSC	regional steering committee
SGEs	standing groups of experts
SPS	sanitary and phytosanitary measures
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VLC	FAO Virtual Learning Centre
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WOAH	World Organisation of Animal Health
wto	World Trade Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to address the multiple global challenges of the establishment and spread of African swine fever (ASF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) jointly developed a programme to control the disease worldwide – 'global control of African swine fever: a global framework for transboundary animal diseases (GF-TADs) Initiative' (henceforth referred to as the "Global initiative"), which was released in July 2020.



**Objective 1.** Improve the capability of countries to control (prevent, respond, eradicate) ASF using WOAH standards and best practices that are based on the latest science.

**Objective 2.** Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF.

Objective 3. Facilitate business continuity.

The global initiative (GI) identifies support mechanisms to improve the capability of countries to control ASF, improve the coordination and cooperation of key stakeholders from the private and public sector, and minimize the consequences of ASF through business continuity. In particular in 2021, the focus was on enhancing public-private partnerships (PPP). Private-sector actors along the pig value chain – not only pig keepers, but also those in input supply, processing, marketing, transport and trading, as well as consumers – play a key role in the global control of ASF.

This second annual report aims to highlight the progress achieved in 2021 by describing the key output indicators under the three main objectives of the GI. Progress is illustrated by showcasing some of the activities conducted in 2021.

The global COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have a significant impact in 2022. Maintaining the commitment of stakeholders will remain essential if we are to progress towards the goal of global ASF control. FAO and WOAH will continue to provide their support to members, including through capacity development on emergency preparedness, risk-based control, improving biosecurity focusing on low input production systems and resource-limited settings, enabling research and outreach, the promotion of PPP, and the development of monitoring and evaluation systems.

The 2020 annual report can be found here.



ASF is one of the most devastating animal diseases present in the world today. The causative agent of the disease, ASF virus (ASFV) infects not only domestic swine, but wild pigs as well. The ongoing outbreaks and continued spread of ASF have had a huge impact on swine production and significant losses have been observed across the industry, ranging from highly industrialized commercial pig farms to small-scale or backyard pig production systems. This unprecedented crisis in the pig sector presents a global risk to animal health and welfare, national and international economies, rural development, national food security, and national and international markets. Additionally, the spread of ASF in some parts of the world also poses a threat to native and endangered species of wild suids.

In 2021, ASFV was detected in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, four decades after it was eradicated in the Americas. The transcontinental spread of the virus is yet another illustration of the importance of human activities in its global expansion. In addition, reports of new variants with lower-virulence ASFV have been noted in the scientific community concerning the epidemiology of the disease, resulting in less obvious clinical signs and thus compromising early warning systems.

COVID-19 has continued to hinder global efforts to prevent and control ASF, as national budgets are focused on managing the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. With many countries reporting the diversion of laboratory resources to COVID-19 diagnostics, the



capacity for laboratory detection of ASF was significantly affected. In addition, lockdown measures in some countries limited the ability of veterinary services to conduct field surveillance. These factors have very probably weakened surveillance systems for ASF, especially in countries where the national resources are already under strain.

Despite the challenges posed by the complex epidemiology of the disease and competing priorities, global control of ASF is feasible if the public and private sectors join forces and coordinate their actions in line with the GI. The activities of the GI were designed to increase the capability of the veterinary services to control the disease, enhance intersectoral and regional coordination, and support business continuity, even in the presence of the disease.

As stated by the Directors-General of FAO and WOAH at the Call for Action event in October 2020, both organizations, under the GF-TADs, stand ready to support affected and at-risk countries in their battle against ASF. By combining our forces to strengthen animal health systems through the GI, we can make the global control of ASF a reality.

The GF-TADs ASF Working Group acknowledges all colleagues, whether from national veterinary services, the private sector, regional organizations or supportive institutions for their efforts in the implementation of the GI, and for their contribution to this annual report.







Improve the capabilities of countries to prevent, respond to, control or eradicate African swine fever using World Organisation for Animal Health International Standards and best practices based on the most up-to-date scientific research

The high economic impact of African swine fever (ASF) in the pig sector can be reduced only if affected countries are capable of efficiently detecting and managing outbreaks in case of ASF occurrence, or applying adequate measures to prevent the entry and spread of the virus into their territory. In this regard, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication are determinant factors in controlling outbreaks. Regarding the differences in research activities and economic resources among countries, it is the intention of the ASF Global Initiative (GI) to provide assistance in filling the scientific and technical gaps. Direct supportive action has been provided to recently affected countries in coordination with regional and global stakeholders.



#### Intermediate outcome 1.1.

#### IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF VETERINARY SERVICES

In order to strengthen the capability of countries to control ASF, it is important to understand the strengths and weaknesses of national veterinary services. In this way, interventions can be designed with country-specific needs in mind, targeting identified priority gaps to enable these countries to better prevent and control ASF.

In response to the epidemiological events that occurred during 2021, the strengthening of laboratory capacity in affected countries was prioritized. Laboratory capacity-building activities such as dedicated webinars, hands-on training, and WOAH twinning projects were organized in response to specific requests, surveys and needs identified during the meetings of the regional standing group of experts.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and FAO ASF reference laboratories also remain available to provide expert advice to affected countries.

#### SHOWCASE: SURVEYS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND LABORATORY CAPACITIES FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Laboratory diagnosis is an important component of ASF prevention and control. In August 2021, a survey was conducted in the Asia-Pacific (AP) region to understand the status of laboratory capacities and key challenges faced in ASF diagnosis, as well as areas of support required by Members to enhance such diagnosis. The report may be found <u>here</u>.

Similarly, in response to the outbreak of ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a survey of existing laboratory capacities for ASF was also conducted in the Americas in August 2021. Its purpose was to identify the current resources of Members in terms of ASF diagnosis and pinpoint critical gaps to address in order to enable the early detection of ASF introduction and spread. The survey findings revealed important insights into the laboratory tests used in the diagnosis of ASF, biosafety and quality control, and capacities for surge testing and logistical arrangements for the testing of samples. This enabled WOAH, FAO, reference laboratories and key partners to create an action plan to enhance the ASF diagnostic capacity of Members and strengthen ASF control, including the provision of training, delivery of reference materials, reagents and laboratory consumables to national laboratories, and technical support in the form of proficiency testing. Laboratory twinning projects were also launched between selected countries.



#### Intermediate outcome 1.2. IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT RISK ASSESSMENT

Enhancing risk assessment (RA) capacities in countries, particularly in national veterinary services, is essential to achieving the GF-TADs GI on ASF control. RAs assist decision-makers in finding timely and sound solutions to the challenges posed by the prevention and control of ASF. During the reporting period, two regional trainings were conducted to promote the use of RAs and enhance the countries' capacities to identify ASF risk pathways for disease entry into countries or regions.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

Improve the capabilities of countries to prevent, respond to, control or eradicate African swine fever using World Organisation for Animal Health International Standards and best practices based on the most up-to-date scientific research

#### SHOWCASE: WOAH REGIONAL TRAINING ON IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN MEMBERS)

From November to December 2021, the WOAH subregional representation office in Nairobi, Kenya, coordinated a regional training on import risk analysis for ASF (for English-speaking African Members) under the umbrella of the GF-TADs. The training objectives were as follows:

- to develop understanding on the epidemiology of ASF;
- build capacity in RA for national veterinary services;
- review the current knowledge of ASF in the sub-Saharan Africa region; and
- conduct a qualitative assessment of the risk of the introduction, spread and establishment of ASFV in accordance with the WOAH's risk analysis framework, in order to identify pathways and measures to strengthen ASF control.

The virtual training covered topics including the epidemiology of ASF in Africa, with an emphasis on trade-related risks, value chains associated with swine production and marketing in Africa, key principles of compartmentalization based on <u>WOAH compartmentalization guidelines</u> and its import risk analysis framework to facilitate safe trade.

Over the course of six sessions, 62 country representatives, regional and international experts and observers attended the virtual training workshop. The training also involved the use of quizzes and weekly homework tasks. Following the training, country participants were issued with a certificate of attendance.

Materials from the workshop can be found here.

Four steps are involved ...

- · risk evaluation
- · option evaluation
- implementation
- · monitoring and review



Lead trainer, Dr Noel Murray (CFIA, Canada) during the session on risk analysis

#### SHOWCASE: FAO QUALITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER VIRUS INTRODUCTION FOR THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH, CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICAS

Following the re-introduction of ASFV in the Americas after 40 years of absence, qualitative RA was undertaken to evaluate the likelihood of ASF entry from the Dominican Republic and Haiti to unaffected countries and territories of the Americas, as well as the likely exposure of susceptible animal populations in case the disease was introduced. In addition, the potential economic and social impact of ASFV spreading across the continent was assessed. The RA covers the period from December 2021 to February 2022 and considers six risk pathways of introduction and spread. The methodology, information used, and results of the RA and economic impact assessment are available in this publication along with recommendations for the prevention and control of ASFV introduction and spread in the region based on the assessment results. Moreover, this publication compiles information collected from 35 countries/territories in the Americas through a questionnaire, and presents evidence on the complex swine/pork value chains in the region, retrieved from various official sources.

The results of qualitative RA were presented through a joint CaribVet/CAHFSA/Comunidad Andina/CVP/COPEG/IICA/OIRSA/FAO/WOAH/USDA regional webinar on risk analysis and GF-TADs Americas meeting.





#### Intermediate outcome 1.3. IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT RISK MANAGEMENTENT

National veterinary services play a crucial role in the prevention and control of ASF by protecting the national pig production and pork value chain. Considering the epidemiology of ASF and different risk pathways, all capacity development activities regarding ASF risk management were focused on training provided to public and private stakeholders. This included the whole pig value chain with relevant stakeholders from border inspection, forestry authorities, hunting communities, veterinary services, competent institutions, civil society, and so on.

The establishment of the FAO Virtual Learning Centre (VLC) and WOAH training platform was designed to improve the regional delivery of online training and transfer the competencies required to organize and deliver online trainings to regions and countries. This approach ensures that courses are offered in line with the training needs of countries in targeted regions and are both well-tailored to the local contexts and delivered in local languages. The aim of the project is to build capacity for developing and delivering virtual training courses, modules, webinars and discussion forums. These training structures offer participants a space to discuss and share experiences on ASF prevention and control with colleagues and international experts.

By using information and communication technology, the VLCs allow numerous and geographically diverse audiences to be trained in an inexpensive and environmentally friendly format which has proven to be particularly useful during COVID-19-related lockdowns. Virtual networking allows colleagues in distant locations to easily share experiences with those that they might have never had the chance to meet in person. **VLC delivered five regional ASF preparedness courses** in 2021. These four-week tutored courses consisted of webinars, discussion forums and a final evaluation test covering seven modules: Introduction to ASF; Clinical diagnosis; Sampling and Laboratory Diagnosis; Outbreak Investigation; Response and Control Measures; Prevention and Biosecurity; and ASF in wild boar. 1 397 participants registered and 617 completed the course. Countries improved their capacities through trainings on risk management for diverse pig production and value chains. More details on VLC can be found <u>here</u>.

#### **SHOWCASE:**

FAO has developed an Excel-based tool to estimate the cost of a pig disease outbreak in a country (or at subnational level), including expenses related to control measures. The outbreak costing tool has been validated following piloting in very different settings in four countries (Colombia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, North Macedonia) in three continents, demonstrating its power to rapidly and accurately assess (or simulate) direct disease costs for both ASF and classical swine fever, at subnational and national level, and in affected and at-risk countries. More details can be found here.





In response to the official confirmation of ASF in the Dominican Republic, the FAO Emergency Management Center for Animal Health (EMC-AH) deployed a joint preparedness and response mission to the Dominican Republic (11–18 August) and to Haiti (19 August to 2 September). The mission was supported by a number of international agencies, including FAO, WOAH, IICA and OIRSA, and consisted of five ASF specialists. The purpose of the mission was to quickly evaluate the epidemiological situation of ASF on the island and to assess the emergency measures taken by the Dominican Republic and Haiti with the ultimate goal of delivering practical technical recommendations to control and contain the spread of the disease. During the mission, critical meetings were held with government authorities and the private sector. Several provinces in the Dominican Republic and Haiti were visited, in order to better understand the pig value chain in both countries and the application of emergency response measures as part of their national ASF Emergency Plans. The experts provided technical recommendations to the country's authorities, following which various actions have been implemented in terms of biosecurity, risk communication and the development of operational procedures. As a follow-up to the EMC-AH mission, several projects have been developed and implemented.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

Improve the capabilities of countries to prevent, respond to, control or eradicate African swine fever using World Organisation for Animal Health International Standards and best practices based on the most up-to-date scientific research



@ FAO Cameroon

### Table-top simulation exercise for the early detection and control of an ASF outbreak in Cameroon.

ASF was first reported in Cameroon in February 1982. Despite the multiple measures taken by the Government to control the spread of the virus, the disease has become endemic throughout Cameroon since 2010.

After the contextualization of the animal health emergency management manual, a table-top simulation exercise for ASF control in Cameroon was held from 31 August to 2 September 2021 in Douala. The objective was to test and strengthen the prevention and response capacities against outbreaks of ASF of the Cameroon national animal diseases control framework. 45 participants from the veterinary services, private sector, international organizations, local epidemiologists, veterinary training institutions and relevant administrative bodies attended the simulation exercises.

Training tool modules including the management manual for zoo-sanitary emergency operations in Cameroon, the strategic plan for the prevention and control of ASF in Cameroon, the Standard Operation Procedures for ASF surveillance in Cameroon, and the national operational control plan were used, as well as WOAH's *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

This simulation exercise was an opportunity to introduce the actors to the use of the Progressive Emergency Preparedness Process assessment tool. More details can be found <u>here</u>.



#### Intermediate outcome 1.4. IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT RISK COMMUNICATION

Effective risk communication is critical to ASF prevention, spread and control. A high level of awareness needs to be maintained at all times by key stakeholders based on the epidemiology of the disease and up-to-date risk assessments. Such communication needs to be carefully tailored to the audience and should target the epidemiological risks presented at the time within the country as a result of a RA. In 2021 the focus was on i) better characterization of risks; and ii) better identification and targeting of the right audience for more impactful risk communication campaigns.

In addition, ASF kills pigs marketing campaigns on ASF risk communication were implemented at strategic times throughout the year to facilitate the dissemination of tools on social media channels and amplify the impact of messages. For example, communication activities were ramped up ahead of the 2021 lunar new year through various digital platforms, calling all relevant stakeholders in the AP region to remain vigilant of ASF and take measures against the potential spread of ASFV in pork products. With the detection of ASF in the Dominican Republic, a campaign targeted at travelers visiting the country was also implemented, reminding travelers of measures to take to prevent the spread of ASF. The campaign reached more than five million people.

Campaign materials are available <u>here</u>.

#### **OBJECTIVE 1**

Improve the capabilities of countries to prevent, respond to, control or eradicate African swine fever using World Organisation for Animal Health International Standards and best practices based on the most up-to-date scientific research

# Coordination with major partners to improve risk communication in the Americas

During the second half of 2021, in response to the outbreak of ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, a set of tools was developed in collaboration with key partners to raise awareness among Members on how to stop the spread of the disease.

Taking into account the transcontinental spread of the disease and potential for ongoing transmission through the movement of humans carrying ASF-risk products, WOAH reached out to its partners in the international transport industry to raise awareness of ASF, and appeal for vigilance and assistance in disseminating risk communication messages.

In collaboration with INTERPOL, a document with specific recommendations on how law enforcement officers can contribute to halt the spread of ASF was developed. This document was produced in English, Spanish, French and Arabic. Together with the International Maritime Organization, materials from the **ASF kills pigs** campaign were adapted for port staff, ship crew and passengers. In addition, an article encouraging customs officials to increase vigilance against ASF was published on the World Customs Organization website. Materials previously developed jointly with the International Air Transport Association were translated to Portuguese. Furthermore, a presentation on ASF was delivered at the International Meat Secretariat Animal Care Committee to emphasise the importance of maintaining awareness of the risk of ASF in the production and processing chain.





#### What is African swine fever (ASF)?

ASF is a highly contagious disease of domestic and wild pigs. Mortality rates may be as high as 100%. Even though the disease is not a danger to human health it can easily be spread by humans, as the virus can survive on clothes, boots, wheels or even on pork products posted via international mail or carried by travelers. The disease can cross borders if adequate measures are not implemented. Currently, there is no approved vaccine against. ASF. Prevention depends on the implementation of appropriate import policies and border controls to ensure that neither infected live pigs nor pork products are introduced into ASF-free areas.

#### Why is it so important that we stop the spread of this disease?

The recent upsurge of ASF around the globe was responsible for massive losses in pigs and drastic socio-economic consequences. This disease poses a major threat to pig health and welfare and, therefore, to pig production systems. Considering that pigs represent a main source of animal protein among a growing human population, ASF not only impacts the livelihoods of small and large-scale pig produces, but iso threatens food security workfowide.

#### How can law enforcement officers help?

For more information: www.oie.int/asf 🍾

Stay informed of the ASF cases in your country and region

- Know what your police powers are in the event of an outbreak of African swine fever in your country.
  In case you notice any suspicious products of pork origin, illegal imported animals or illegal
  movements of swines, inform the national Veterinary Services.
- If you inspect farms, make sure you comply with proper precautions measures, such as wearing specific personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, and glasses.
- Should you have to handle pork products, make sure to practice proper and frequent hand hygiene.
  considering that currently there is no approved vaccine against ASF, monitor and report any trade or attempted sale of illegal vaccines to the proper authorities, including online.
   Investigate any suspicious introduction of swine or pork products into farms.

Oie world organisation for animal health Professing distingthe production and better



WOAH also worked closely with the World Veterinary Association to disseminate ASF communication tools developed by WOAH and FAO to its veterinarians.

#### The WOAH calls on Customs officials to increase vigilance against African swine fever

By the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Several countries around the world are facing the devastating effects of the African swine fever (ASF), a deadly pig disease of viral origin. The virus can travel from one country to another through people carrying infected pigs or contaminated pork products or clothing. Customs officials can play a key role in preventing the spread of the disease by setting up effective controls. By doing so, not only are they safeguarding animal health, but also food security and the global pork industry.

The **Be a Champion Farmer** communication campaign targeted specific risk factors of biosecurity and a specific audience – small-scale/backyard farmers. Amongst other resources, video and posters were developed to address a range of audiences and cover subjects ranging from illegal use of vaccines, to risk communications for farmers, hunters, and travelers. These video materials and posters were translated and are available in 17 languages.

## Be a Champion Farmer! Biosecurity is key to stop African swine fever



Video English, Khmer, Lao, Vietnamese,Indonesia (Bahasa, Bali, Batak, Kupang), Nepali, Burmese, Malaysia (Malay, Iban Sarawak), the Philippines (Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano), 中文, Portuguese.



Posters [English], English2, French1, French2, Chinese1, Chinese2, Bahasa Indonesia1, Bahasa Indonesia2, Burmese, Khmer, Korean1, Korean2, Lao, Nepali1, Nepali2, Portuguese1, Portuguese2, Thai1, Thai2, Viet Nam1, Viet Nam2, Arabic1, Arabic2, Hindi1, Hindi2, Tagalog, Ilocano and Cebuano].



E-cards targeting biosecurity management: There is no ASF vaccine yet [card1, card2, card3, card4, card5, card6, card7] were developed and used in communication campaign in the AP region.



## Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of African swine fever

ASF is most effectively controlled under international frameworks that coordinate the activities of relevant stakeholders and provide a platform for knowledge exchange and thus facilitate development of common approaches towards sustainable control. Since its establishment in July 2020, the GF-TADs Working Group on ASF has been coordinating the implementation of the GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF. This arrangement is backed by the GF-TADs Global Secretariat. At regional level, standing groups of experts (SGEs) for ASF were successfully established in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, as well as in the Americas. In 2021 the SGE for Africa was established under GF-TADs to promote regular exchange of information and best practices among national veterinary authorities, international and national experts, and the private sector.

The GI has strongly supported the creation of public and private partnership, including multistakeholder platforms such as the Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) or the WOAH and FAO ASF reference laboratory networks. These platforms and networks facilitate coordination between the public and private sector and generate scientific knowledge and tools to contribute to the successful prevention, control and – where possible – eradication of ASF.



#### Intermediate outcome 2.1.

### DISEASE INFORMATION IS TRANSPARENT, ACCURATE, UP-TO-DATE AND ACCESSIBLE

During the reporting period ASF was present in and continued to spread in Africa, Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region and America. At the moment of writing this report, 37 countries have reported the occurrence of ASF in their territories<sup>1</sup> to WOAH. The disease remains a critical risk for ASF-free countries with significant domestic and wild pig populations, and also presents a huge challenge for safer commercial trading of pigs and pig products between countries. It is vital for ASF global control that disease information management ensure the transparency, accuracy, timeliness and accessibility of data.

<sup>1.</sup> Self-declaration follows a different process than WOAH official disease status recognition. The publication by WOAH

of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of WOAH.



Source: World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) modified to comply with UN, 2021. *Disclaimer:* The official disease status recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health for disputed areas may not be reflected in the current map but can be consulted at the following link: <u>https://wahis.woah.org/#/home</u>.

#### World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

WAHIS is the global reference animal health database that provides the international community with easy and transparent access to details of the current animal health situation in countries and territories, as well as their notification record over the years, and other valuable animal health information. After intense rebuilding work to improve reporting and facilitate data exposure and use, the new WAHIS was launched in March 2021. This more user-friendly reporting system includes improved functionalities, including enhanced mapping, and a cleaner public interface with easier access to information via data visualization and download features. Work is ongoing to optimize the current platform's features and performance and develop further functionalities (annual report, mobile alert app).

The link to WAHIS can be found here.

#### ASF notification and situation reports

In 2021, 857 ASF reports were submitted through WAHIS either to signal the occurrence of new ASF outbreaks (100 immediate notifications) or to update on ongoing events (757 follow-up reports). In addition to official reports, WOAH has improved its epidemic intelligence activity to detect and track rumours circulating in the media and other sources of information, with a view to improving the accuracy of reporting. Through this activity and collaboration with World Health Organization via the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Source platform, around 13 000 ASF news reports were detected and verified in 2021.

A situation report is regularly published in order to update Members, non-Members, and the general public on the ASF situation at both global and regional levels, such as highlighting the occurrences of ASF in new zones. The report contains three main sections: 1) a summary of the global ASF situation since January 2020; 2) recent updates received by WOAH during the previous two weeks; and 3) a discussion in which the organization provides recommendations considering the recent changes of the global ASF situation.

The reports are available online <u>here</u>.



#### Intermediate outcome 2.2. EFFECTIVE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EXPERT NETWORKS STRENGTHEN INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

The GF-TADs SGE for ASF have proved to be a relevant structure for gathering decision-makers and experts to coordinate regional efforts and share best practices, thereby addressing the disease in a collaborative, transparent and harmonized way since 2014.

#### 2.2.1.

#### STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS: AFRICA

In Africa, the 10th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was organized on 6-8 October 2021. This meeting successfully reactivated the GF-TADs in the Africa region. Dr Nick Nwankpa, Acting Director of the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) was appointed chair of the RSC. In the five-year regional strategy (2021–2025) that was adopted to mark the occasion, ASF was identified as one of the regional priority TADs, along with foot-and-mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and Rift Valley fever. During the meeting, the reference of the SGE for ASF were discussed and later unanimously adopted by electronic voting.

The SGE for ASF is based on the founding Member Countries that have reported ASF in the recent past. Other participants such as the AU-IBAR, selected Regional Economic Communities, FAO and WOAH Regional Representations, the International Livestock Research Institute, WOAH and FAO reference laboratories and collaborating centres as well as selected national and regional laboratories. The objectives of the SGE for ASF will be to regularly exchange information, provide technical support, and support regional collaboration and coordination, including activities of public health importance related to pig disease.

The first meeting of the SGE Africa for ASF was scheduled for March 2022.

#### 2.2.2. STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS: AMERICAS

Given the emergency caused by the ASF outbreaks detected in the Dominican Republic, the SGE for ASF of the GF-TADs Americas established a Regional Emergency Management Committee to make recommendations on and coordinate the required actions to mitigate the outbreak.

This led to the development of a Regional Framework for the containment and prevention of ASF spread in the Americas. The framework addresses coordination activities against ASF among countries, regions, and subregions, as well as actions coming from the international organizations. At the regional level the framework provides support and guidance for organization, resource mobilization, capacity-building training tools and public-private partnership, as well as for keeping a unified regional ASF working plan. Five pillars of action are considered:

 Preparedness and response planning to ensure that countries have a high level of readiness and competency to prevent, rapidly detect, respond and control further ASF spread in the region.

- Enhanced biosecurity implementing key biosecurity measures in place at national and regional level, so that ASF-free territories and countries can be efficiently protected.
- III. Ensuring business continuity for mitigating ASF impact on the local, national and international trade sector involved in the porcine value chain, through the application of good practices for safe trade and business continuity, based on the international standards of WOAH and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- IV. Risk communication, advocacy and community engagement for facilitating scientific-based decision-making, PPP and political commitment.
- V. Surveillance and early detection for preventing ASF spread in the region, considering domestic, feral and wild pig populations, as well as the structure of the production units (organized, backyard, etc.)

These actions are all aligned with the GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF. More details are available <u>here</u>.



#### 2.2.3. STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS: ASIA PACIFIC

Three virtual meetings of the SGE ASF Asia Pacific were organized in 2021. There were continued and ongoing outbreaks of ASF throughout the region and biosecurity implementation continues to be the major focus of the AP SGE for ASF.

Several priority activities were identified by the SGE to be undertaken during 2021. New strains of ASF were reported in the AP region. There was also anecdotal reporting of fake and unlicensed ASF vaccines being sold and used in different parts of the region. Technical discussions on the implications of different strains of ASF and the use of such vaccines were held and the importance of awareness and communication to educate farmers and animal health workers on these two topics were stressed by the SGE.

Although the role of wild pigs in ASF has always been identified as a priority topic, only a small number of Member Countries in the region had taken active steps to understand their role. Several technical meetings were held inviting different stakeholders to discuss with SGE members on ASF and wild pigs and the interface between domestic and wild pigs. With several threatened or endangered native wild pig species in parts of Asia, the conservation of these pigs with the threat of ASF was also highlighted. On the island of Borneo, outbreaks of ASF were confirmed in the native bearded pigs, confirming their susceptibility to clinical disease. Practical biosecurity and other control measures focused on wild pigs were discussed during these consultations.

#### 2.2.4. STANDING GROUP OF EXPERTS: EUROPE

Due to COVID-19, all meetings of the European SGE for ASF took place by teleconference. During each meeting, the 14 participating members briefly updated their national epidemiological situation regarding ASF, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on their ASF surveillance. It is noteworthy that in spite of COVID-19, the great majority could carry out surveillance as programmed in spite of the increased costs and difficulties encountered due to the reduced movement of officials.

WOAH, the European Commission and FAO provided updates on activities

on ASF prevention and control in the Americas, Asian, Europe. Specific programmes have been carried out in the Balkans, while the construction of fences in Poland and Germany is a key development. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Italy presented possible exit strategies and the practical issues associated with these strategies. The ASF and outdoor pig farming assessment was presented by EFSA.

In addition, Czechia and Belgium also shared their experience in regaining freedom from ASF. More details are available <u>here</u>.

### **SHOWCASE:**

### Fostering public and private partnerships for global ASF control

Coordinated efforts among all relevant stakeholders are needed to achieve control of ASF. Partnerships between the public and private sectors (PPPs) can demonstrate optimal use of the unique strengths of both sectors and - when well-planned and implemented – can often achieve outcomes that would not be possible by any one sector operating alone. In line with the GF-TADs initiative on global ASF control and the Call for Action launched in 2020, the virtual event on PPP was organized from 14–28 June 2021 by FAO and WOAH in collaboration with the International Meat Secretariat. The event entitled Stop ASF: Public and private partnering for success highlighted the central role of PPPs in the ASF global control initiative and promoted the engagement and collaboration of the public and private sectors in the GI. The objectives of the virtual event were to: i) understand the impact of ASF for the public and private sectors; ii) identify the needs and

common grounds of interest of all stakeholders for the effective control of ASF; iii) showcase how PPP can help prevent and/or control ASF with proven efficiency and impact; iv) identify partnership opportunities and current and future win-win scenarios; v) promote the engagement of stakeholders; and vi) facilitate PPPs in the implementation of the ASF GI. The event was held on a virtual platform that was specifically designed for this purpose and included three sessions: prerecorded videos, a question-and-answer session and a live panel discussion. During the event, speakers and participants discussed potential opportunities to enhance PPP towards ASF control based on their own experiences in establishing PPP for the prevention and control of ASF and other transboundary animal diseases. More than 1300 participants (representative of industry, international financial institutions government and academia) from 132 countries attended the event. More details are available here.



#### Intermediate outcome 2.3. AFRICAN SWINE FEVER GLOBAL RESEARCH IS ACTIVE AND COORDINATED AND ADDRESSES REAL NEEDS

The GARA's mission is to establish and sustain global research partnerships that will generate scientific knowledge and tools to contribute to the successful prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever. Strategic goals include communicating and disseminating current, scientific issues and results to the global ASF research community.

To this end, GARA webinars were conducted on current issues in order to strengthen the gathering and dissemination of disease intelligence data in the broader sense. Although the virtual webinar format was imposed by the COV-ID-19 pandemic, it was an excellent way to reach decision-makers, scientists, and other concerned individuals worldwide.

The first webinar was conducted in May 2021. The virtual seminar on ASF vaccines was a joint webinar by the GARA, the International Alliance for Biological Standardization, and the International Research Consortium on Animal Health. The seminar featured keynote speakers from the the United States of America, Europe, Africa and China and was meant to provide a joint platform of researchers and regulatory people to discuss ways forward. They discussed recent developments in ASF vaccines including licensing, regulation, and commercialization. The audience comprised 800 participants from 71 countries and the scientific presentations were made available through the GARA Scientific Communications channel on YouTube.

A technical webinar was organized for people involved and interested in next-generation sequencing of ASFV. The seminar "Troubleshooting techniques for full genome sequencing of African swine fever" (September 2021) discussed the pros and cons of various sequencing platforms for the full genomic sequencing of ASFV. It summarized the state-of-the-art technology available and discussed possible directions for future work. The seminar hosted speakers from Hungary, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South Africa, Germany, and the United States of America. Overall, 270 participants from 46 countries participated in this event. The scientific presentations are also available through the YouTube channel.

In December 2021, a seminar was organized **Honouring Eustace Montgomery and the first 100 years of ASF research**. The event was hosted by the GARA in collaboration with the Swedish international agriculture network initiative and focused on the hurdles that still face the control of ASF in smallholder farming settings in Africa, Europe, and Asia. Social sciences were integrated into the veterinary/disease control perspective. Over 620 participants from 70 countries took part in the event.

In 2022, the GARA will renew its gap analysis. The analysis will be performed at the GARA scientific meeting to be held in May 2022 in the Dominican Republic.

More information can be found on the <u>GARA official website</u>.



## **Facilitate business continuity**

Members that trade in pigs and pig commodities at national or international level should include provisions for managing risks to business continuity in their preparedness and control plans, making use of science-based international standards. Business continuity depends on the correct application of international standards and will require a strong partnership between the swine industry, veterinary services and trading partners.

Facilitation of safe trade will contribute to reducing the overall impact of ASF. It will also help to contribute to food security and alleviate poverty by improving the resilience of the swine sector and protecting the livelihoods of pig producers in low- and middleincome countries.

The activities under this objective aim to support and promote the implementation of international standards and therefore minimize the impact of ASF by ensuring that national, regional and international trade in pigs and pig products is safe. The expected outcome is the mitigation of the impact of ASF on trade in the swine sector, both nationally and internationally, amid ongoing efforts to control and eventually eradicate the disease.



### Intermediate outcome 3.1.

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SAFE TRADE ARE UNDERSTOOD, ACCEPTED AND PROMOTED

The WOAH Terrestrial Code provides harmonized international standards through which general and ASF-specific sanitary risks can be mitigated, including through the zoning, compartmentalization and application of commodity-related recommendations. Specifically, Chapter 15.1. "Infection with African swine fever" provides mitigation measures specific to ASF, including provisions for the determination of ASF status of a country, zone or compartment, and recommendations on ASF surveillance and the safe international trade of live pigs and pig products. In addition, Chapter 4.4. "Zoning" and Chapter 4.5. "Application of compartmentalization" provide

recommendations to Members wishing to establish and maintain different subpopulations with a specific health status within their territory.

During the reporting period, efforts were made to raise the capacity of countries around the correct implementation of international standards, as well as to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by ASF-affected countries in the application of these standards. With this experience and knowledge, the interventions under the GI will be better placed to facilitate the safe national and international trade of pigs and their products, while avoiding unjustified trade barriers.

### **SHOWCASE:**

WTO: the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and the thematic session on African swine fever

The control of ASF requires complex risk management measures that often involve restrictions in the movement of pigs and their products in order to avoid contaminated commodities entering the supply chain. It is in the best interest of trade partners to agree on sciencebased trade conditions that protect their pig sector from the disease while avoiding unjustified restrictions. Unfortunately, in reality, trade in pigs and pig products is sometimes hindered by the application of exceedingly strict and disproportionate measures that are not based on existing international standards (i.e. not recognizing the principle of zoning and compartmentalization). In March 2021, representatives from WOAH and FAO, national focal points and other international organizations participated in a SPS Committee thematic session on ASF intended to provide Members of the WTO with an opportunity to increase their awareness of zoning and compartmentalization principles, and to learn from one other by exchanging experiences about the challenges and benefits of implementing the international standards for safe trade of pigs and pig products, and to instill confidence among trading partners. The thematic session proved to be informative and improved WTO Members' understanding of the correct implementation of international standards. Presentations from all sessions of the thematic session will be made available on the SPS Gateway.





#### **SHOWCASE:**

### Workshop on compartmentalization for ASF in the Asia-Pacific region

In 2020, WOAH developed practical guidelines on compartmentalization for ASF, in order to better support Members and stakeholders of the pig industry in their efforts to prepare for and minimize the impact of ASF virus incursion.

The link to the compartmentalization guidelines may be found <u>here</u>.

To facilitate understanding and promote the use of compartmentalization as a tool for disease control and enable business continuity, a <u>workshop on</u> <u>compartmentalization for ASF for the AP Region</u> was organized on 27 and 28 April 2021. The workshop sought to:

- expose participants to and improve their understanding of the international standards, guidelines and tools relevant to compartmentalization;
- present the WOAH guidelines on compartmentalization specific to ASF;
- explain how to use it and where/how to find the relevant guidance;
- share country (including private-sector) experiences on compartmentalization and on their work towards sustainability of a commercial sector with presence of ASF; and

 identify possible remaining need for addition support on compartmentalization.

A total of 220 participants, including WOAH Delegates, veterinarians from the national veterinary services, veterinarians, representatives from private sectors and WOAH partners attended the workshop. On the first day, experts involved in the drafting of the guidelines presented the concept of compartmentalization, including specific requirements around identification and traceability, biosecurity, surveillance and related approval processes as elaborated in the guidelines. On the second day, countries with experience of establishing high-biosecurity farms and compartments were given the opportunity to share their experiences. The session concluded with a panel discussion to convey key messages and share advice on facilitating the establishment of compartments.

As a result of the workshop, a number of WOAH Members showed a keen interest in applying the guidelines to ASF, and in translating them into their respective national languages (China, Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam).

Information on the workshop can be found here.









#### Intermediate outcome 3.2. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ARE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY

WOAH standards are updated based on the latest science and in response to Member needs. At the 88th General Session in May 2021, WOAH Members unanimously adopted revisions to <u>Chapter 4.4</u>. "Zoning and compartmentalization" of the WOAH *Terrestrial Code*, which provides for the establishment of a protection zone to preserve the animal health status of an animal population in a free country or free zone by preventing the introduction of disease from neighbouring countries or zones. The revisions include the introduction of the concept of "temporary protection zones" as a tool to minimize the impact a disease would have on the entire country or zone if introduced, where the increased risk was considered to be temporary.

By adopting WOAH standards, Members commit to basing their sanitary measures on the recommendations described in the latest edition of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals in order to avoid any unjustified sanitary barriers to trade.



#### SHOWCASE:

### The United States of America applies protection zone for ASF

The use of a protection zone for ASF may be exemplified by the United States of America, which implemented its first protection zone for a foreign animal disease in response to the introduction of ASF to the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

In September 2021, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) submitted a selfdeclaration dossier to WOAH detailing the actions taken to establish a new ASF protection zone in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The the United States of America has long kept ASF out of the country, and this action, coupled with existing, comprehensive import restrictions and safeguards, will further strengthen its ability to protect its swine herd given recent findings of ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

This is the first foreign animal disease protection zone established by the the United States of America. In its submission to WOAH, APHIS outlined existing measures in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, including:

- training and awareness programmes for producers, veterinarians, and the public;
- active surveillance for ASF in the United States of America and its territories;

- enhanced surveillance in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands;
- increased laboratory capacity in the United States of America and its territories; and
- examination of potential pathways of introduction of ASF into the United States of America.

Additionally, the dossier included information about the Federal Order suspending the interstate movement of all live swine, swine germplasm, swine products, and swine by-products from Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands to the mainland until APHIS can establish sufficient mitigations to authorize such movement.

ASF has not been detected in Puerto Rico or the United States Virgin Islands, and the USDA is committed to preventing its introduction into the United States of America and its territories. APHIS is taking this action as a precautionary measure to further safeguard the country's swine herd and protect the interests and livelihoods of its pork producers.

Additional information on self-declarations and the dossier submitted by USDA APHIS can be found here.





# **CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION FOR 2022**

The 2021 annual report outlines the progress of the implementation of the GI, presents the ASF global situation, and describes major efforts taken towards achieving global ASF control.

Throughout 2021, the COVID-19 crisis continued to impact ASF prevention and control activities and will remain a challenge. As the pandemic eases, it is anticipated that international travel and movement of people could return to pre-pandemic levels, making continued vigilance at border control points for potential unauthorized movements of pigs and pig products essential. The spread of ASF across geographical regions in 2021 also reflects the importance of early detection systems, and ASF preparedness and response. A key priority for the GI for 2022 would therefore be to support countries in the correct implementation of science-based international standards and guidelines to prevent and control ASF. Considering the diverse epidemiological presentations of ASF, the ongoing work of the GI will also focus on the development of guidelines and tools that may be better targeted to specific epidemiological needs.

Faced with competing priorities for limited resources, close collaboration between the public and private sectors via PPPs is increasingly important in addressing shortcomings in food systems, agricultural development, and disease management. The GI will continue to focus on promoting inter-sectoral collaboration designed to tackle ASF. Against a background of limited resources, bringing together a range of actors from business, government, and civil society offers a mechanism for efficient resource mobilization for the control of ASF.

The emergence of low-virulence strains of ASFV in 2021 has highlighted the potential for evolution of the disease and the need to monitor the clinical presentation of ASF in conjunction with laboratory diagnosis and genetic sequencing. As yet, there is no treatment or any proven safe, effective vaccine against ASF and the use of unauthorized



vaccines could generate new ASFV strains and propagate viral spread. As such, the GI will continue to strengthen its support for countries in terms of risk management and communication on current and emerging ASFV risks.

The monitoring, evaluation and learning cycle is fundamental in the implementation of the GI. To ensure effective use of limited resources and demonstrate progress, FAO and WOAH will further engage in the development and implementation of a **monitoring and evaluation framework** to track, measure and communicate progress and results of the initiative and ensure the timely implementation of corrective measures when necessary.

Last but not least, synergies between the ASF GI and other priority transboundary animal disease control programmes will be promoted in line with the renewed <u>GF-TADs</u> <u>global strategy</u>.

The GF-TADs mechanism will continue to offer an appropriate framework to support Members and stakeholders in their efforts against ASF. Collaboration remains key in the control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases, and by working together, we can make the global control of ASF a reality.



This publication has been produced under the umbrella of the







World Organisation for Animal Health Founded as OIE CC2142EN/1/10.22