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DONOR'S PERSPECTIVES FOR MOVING TOWARDS GLOBAL CONTROL OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

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Livestock contributes significantly to the World economy. However, animal diseases are still a major constraint to economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. Among them, is FMD, an internationally recognized highly contagious multi-species animal disease with devastating impact on national economies and high disruptive effects on trade. As such, FMD is high-ranked in the OIE list of notifiable diseases. Although less known as such, FMD remains a severe constraint on development and poverty reduction in many regions of the developing world where it is endemic, through the cost of control measures, closure of access to valuable global FMD-free markets for livestock products, and production losses through reduced milk yield, reduced live weight gain and the inability of infected livestock to perform traction. Because of its global externalities and the high costs it imposes to society as a whole, FMD qualifies as an infectious disease of GPG nature and justifies that donors support a strategy for its global eradication.

Lessons from North America, Western Europe and Australia, and more recently Uruguay, provide us with good models at both national and regional levels. Experience also highlights the limits of country programs alone and the need to adopt a regional and global approach. The lack of literature regarding the micro-economic impact and benefit-cost analysis of FMD at the household level and for the poor, compared to the high perceived cost of the disease prevention, control and eradication, coupled with the difficulties for certain donors to operate at regional level, could explain the limited investments from donors in support to the global effort to eradicate FMD.

Moving forward towards global control of FMD should be a priority for donors. It is needed for both developed and developing countries, difficult but possible, expensive but with high socio-economic and political returns. It will require long term commitment from all, strong political will from governments, concerted financial support from donors, participation from all branches of the private sector, good cooperation and solidarity among nations, and integrated and harmonized approaches backed-up by technical and scientific expertise, guidelines and standards.

Areas of intervention on which donors should specifically focus are: (i) more extensive data about the significant impacts of FMD on poverty alleviation, food security and gender issues that would create clear incentive for donors to invest more and better in this sector; (ii) development of affordable products for FMD control to increase their accessibility to developing countries and smallholders farming systems; (iii) design and implementation of communication and public awareness strategies targeting all level of stakeholders; and (iv) continuous strengthening of Veterinary Services with the existing tools developed by OIE. Donors support to the OIE *World Animal Health and Welfare Fund* would guaranty such long-term capacity support.