

CMC-AH Crisis Management Centre Animal Health

ACTIVITY REPORT

October 2012 – September 2014





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE CMC-AH 2012-2014	4
RAPID RESPONSE	6
Mission: The Islamic Republic of Mauritania	6
Mission: Mongolia	7
MISSION IN FOCUS	10
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	10
SERVING FAO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	12
Interview with Dominique Burgeon	12
Interview with Mona Chaya	13
THE GEMP NETWORK	14
CMC-AH AND FAO	16
Materials produced	16
Mission planning	17
Level 3 emergencies	17
OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS	18
Japan	18
China	18
United Kingdom	18
Australia	19
The United States Department of Agriculture	19
France	19
TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES	20
Disease Outbreak Investigation Manual	20
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	20
Incident Command System (ICS)	21
Work Plan	21





Livestock farmers are significantly impacted by animal disease outbreaks.

THE CMC-AH 2012-2014



The role of camels in the RVF outbreak in Mauritania proved to be more important than first noticed.

Since its inception in 2006, the Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) has had a strong involvement in the response to global influenza pandemics. From the outbreaks of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), to those of influenza A virus H1N1, to the most recent strain to cause global affliction, influenza A(H7N9), these influenza pandemics and epidemics caused significant harm to humans and animals alike, as well as devastating economic losses for governments and countries worldwide. Throughout these years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on prevention and control of influenza outbreaks.

Over the last two years, the CMC-AH has also responded to other transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that have negatively impacted the livelihoods of FAO's member states. From October 2012 – September 2014, the Centre has deployed 12 missions to ten countries, assessing emergencies and epidemiological events related to foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Rift Valley fever (RVF), Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Newcastle disease (ND), rabies and HPAI. To September 2014, the Centre has fielded 71 missions to 43 countries.

Apart from organizing and deploying missions, the CMC-AH plays an active role in producing risk assessment documents (page 16) for the Animal Production and Health Division's (AGA) Animal Health Services (AGAH) and



ACTIVITY REPORT
October 2012 –
September 2014

organizing and facilitating training workshops (page 14) based on FAO's manual, Good Emergency Management Practice: The essentials (GEMP). The Centre has concentrated on strengthening its ties with governments and other international organizations (page 18), as well as working side by side with other divisions and teams in FAO (page 17).

HOW THE CMC-AH WORKS

- 1. Daily tracking of animal disease events, and planning missions to countries that request assistance from FAO.
- 2. Organizing and deploying teams of experts to provide assistance with controlling animal disease emergencies.
- 3. Providing guidance and further assistance in transitioning from a reactive emergency state to proactive disease prevention.



The CMC-AH mission team visits one of the ND affected farms in Libya.







Small ruminant trade can have a big impact on the spread of RVF.

RAPID RESPONSE



The mission team conducts lab visits to assess diagnostic capability in Mauritania.

MISSION: THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Rift Valley fever (RVF), 4-9 November 2012

Objectives: epidemiological assessment, drafting national control strategies, assessment of short and long term needs

Team: epidemiology/risk assessment expert, livestock expert, laboratory expert

From 4 to 9 November 2012, the CMC-AH assisted the Government of Mauritania in assessing the epidemiological situation of RVF in the country. The country had previously experienced outbreaks of RVF in late 2010 – early 2011, resulting in a CMC-AH mission in January 2011, but the team concluded that this new incursion was not epidemiologically linked to the previous one.

In addition to the recommendations that the mission team made during this 2012 mission, the team was also able to evaluate the suggestions applied in the country from the previous mission deployed in 2011, and assess their impact. In order to build upon the positive changes applied by the Government of Mauritania in 2011, the team suggested that they further reinforce surveillance activities and participate in an internationally coordinated effort to prevent and control RVF in that region.



ACTIVITY REPORT
October 2012 September 2014

MISSION: MONGOLIA

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), 21-27 April 2014

Objectives: draft contingency plan for PPR, advise on control plans for

outbreaks, define possible risk areas

Team: disease control expert, PPR expert, small ruminant livestock management expert, preparedness and contingency planning expert

The Centre deploys preparedness missions where there is a new or heightened risk of incursion. These missions assist a country in evaluating their risk to high consequence animal diseases and to determine the necessary actions to prevent and promptly manage these risks.

The mission fielded to Mongolia from 21 to 27 April 2014 was a preparedness mission, assessing the possible incursion of PPR from the People's Republic of China, which had been experiencing outbreaks since December 2013. The team conducted visits with government officials, the Border Inspection Department, local governors and herder households. Although the international border was well fenced and monitored, the team concluded that there was indeed a risk of PPR incursion.

The team suggested that the government of Mongolia make connections with vaccine manufacturers, should vaccine be needed at some point in the future. Since the disease has not yet been discovered in Mongolia, the team also recommended that legislation and a contingency plan should be drafted, ensuring Mongolia's interests in small ruminant health.



The mission team recommended to the Government of Mongolia that it develop a response and contingency plan for an incursion of PPR.

Map of missions October 2012 – September 2014



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Newcastle disease (ND)

13-18 May 2013 Objectives: review status of disease, prevention measures, containment and control strategy. Team: poultry industry expert, virologist, operations officer.



Uganda

-

Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

13-24 July 2014

Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, control measures, resource mobilization.

Team: response veterinarian, foot and mouth disease field control expert, veterinary epidemiologist.



Saudi Arabia

***** 1

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

14-25 September 2013
Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, support country in prevention and control.
Team: chief veterinary officer of FAO

leam: chief veterinary officer of FAO (CVO), virologist, livestock expert, veterinary disease investigation expert/ epidemiologist, coronavirus expert.



Middle East respiratory

Qatar

syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) 22-28 October 2013 Objectives: epidemiologic

investigation, investigation plan, regional cooperation. *Team:* livestock officer, food safety and consumer protection officer.



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

3-10 June 2013
Objectives: assessment of outbreak and diagnostics capabilities, identify funding needs.
Team: field programme officer, senior laboratory expert.





Mauritania

Pife Velley form

Rift Valley fever (RVF)

Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, national strategy development, assessment of needs. Team: epidemiology/risk assessment expert in conjunction with decentralized officers.



Contagious bovine

pleuropneumonia (CBPP) 7-14 April 2014

Objectives: prevention and control strategy, epidemiological investigation. Team: infectious disease expert, CBPP expert, epidemiologist and risk assessment expert, operations officer.



Gambia

Gambi

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

15-19 October 2012
Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, review disease control measures, guidance on vaccination programme. Team: disease control expert, CBPP disease expert, emergency operations officer.



Ango

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

9-16 October 2012
Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, response and control plan strategy. Team: PPR control expert, rapid response veterinarian, emergency operations officer.



Mongo

inoligo Maria

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) 21-27 April 2014

Objectives: risk assessment, prevention strategy, contingency plan. Team: disease control expert, PPR expert, small ruminant livestock management expert, preparedness and contingency planning expert.





Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

4-13 March 2014
Objectives: epidemiologic investigation, prevention and control measures. Team: emergency animal disease response expert, epidemiologist and FMD expert, operations officer.



Viet Nam



5-16 May 2013 Objectives: response and control strategy,

vaccination. Team: veterinary public health and disease control expert, rabies expert, rabies laboratory specialist, communication specialist.

(disease transmissible between animals and humans)

Transboundary

animal disease

Zoonosis





Although much remains to be learned, camels may be involved in the transmission of MERS-CoV.

MISSION IN FOCUS



Mission team members debrief colleagues in FAO Headquarters and field offices regarding the activities and outcomes of the KSA mission.

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA)

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

To 8 September 2014, MERS-CoV has claimed the lives of 331 people, infecting a total of 846 people. Of those who died, many already had underlying medical conditions. The symptoms of MERS-CoV are sudden and serious respiratory problems, fever and cough. Most of the cases were reported from the KSA, and those reported from other countries have frequently had some connection to Saudi Arabia. However, the first known human case occurred in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in April 2012.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of FAO urged the veterinary authorities in the Middle East region to assist the public health officials in investigating the source of the disease in May 2013. Due to the disease's high mortality rate (30%), and the speed with which cases were reported since its first occurrence in 2012, the Government of the KSA requested assistance from FAO, resulting in deployment of a CMC-AH mission from 14 to 25 September 2013.

This CMC-AH mission brought together a wide range of expertise from various institutions in an effort to gain a better understanding of this highly publicized newly emerging disease. The team was composed of the CVO FAO (also team leader), an animal health expert from FAO Headquarters (HQ) and one from a FAO field office, and experts nominated by WHO, OIE, the University of Hong Kong, the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale in Italy and from the EcoHealth Alliance in New York.



ACTIVITY REPORT
October 2012 –
September 2014

The fear and uncertainty related to MERS-CoV greatly impacts those who travel to KSA for religious pilgrimages.



There is still no definitive answer on the potential animal source of MERS-CoV, although some evidence is emerging. The mission team aided the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of the KSA in developing an investigation plan to further research the epidemiology of this disease. In this plan, the mission team suggested that the MoA:

- provide sufficient funding and resources to allow for MERS-CoV testing in animals at central and regional levels;
- enhance the MERS-CoV surveillance in KSA;
- strengthen laboratory capacities, as well as welcome further epidemiological expertise; and
- create a team within the MoA who is responsible for collaborating with the KSA's Ministry of Health (MoH) – joint investigations into MERS-CoV between human and animal health officials is seen as crucial to the future prevention and control of the disease.

As part of these recommendations, the team also drafted a disease investigation proposal that was later submitted to the country.

Based on the work accomplished during this MERS-CoV mission to the KSA, the State of Qatar also requested a mission from FAO, resulting in a CMC-AH mission in October 2013. Furthermore, FAO, with CMC-AH assistance, continues to disseminate MERS-CoV updates, Q&As and talking points to its spokespeople.





FAO's Strategic Objectives aim to bring food security to all.

SERVING FAO'S STRATEGIC OBJE

FAOA, Green

Dominique Burgeon, Director of TCE.

INTERVIEW WITH DOMINIQUE BURGEON

Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE), Technical Cooperation Department

What are FAO's strategic objectives?

In 2013, FAO developed a new strategic framework refocusing FAO's work to fight hunger and poverty along five key strategies. One objective is to increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters including natural disasters, emergencies in the food chain, socio-economic crises, violent conflicts and protracted crises.

How does the CMC-AH platform serve FAO's objectives?

The CMC-AH platform and activities fall under the resilience agenda (Strategic Objective 5). The CMC-AH is the response arm of the transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases emergency work.

How does the CMC-AH specifically support the work of SO5?

By deploying missions to countries which experience animal disease emergencies, the CMC-AH investigates and assesses ways in which governments can better control outbreaks and prevent further incursions, providing recommendations for country officials to implement. The CMC-AH focuses the technical and operational resources in both Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices, bringing them together in a rigorous and effective manner.

One key to developing resilience is the development of contingency plans. The Centre helps countries plan for possible threats and crises by offering GEMP workshops and disseminating the manual in various languages.



ACTIVITY REPORT October 2012 -

September 2014

CTIVES

INTERVIEW WITH MONA CHAYA

Senior coordinator with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection (AG) division

As leader of the "Major Area of Work" of SO5, called Food Chain Crisis – EMPRES, how do you see the CMC-AH support?

The major areas of work for S05 include natural hazards, protracted crises and my own area of interest that addresses threats to the food chain (e.g. transboundary plant, forest, animal, aquatic and zoonotic pests and diseases, food safety events, nuclear emergencies, industrial pollution, etc.). The CMC-AH is an integral part of that in respect to animal diseases and zoonoses. It provides the rapid response capability that supports countries when they must deal with exceptional events. The CMC-AH has, since its inception, been the work of close collaboration between two Departments of FAO – Agricultural Production and Consumer Protection, and Technical Cooperation. This crossdisciplinary approach is precisely what the new direction of FAO is capturing.

The resilience objective aims to prevent and avoid disasters rather than simply responding to them. Does the CMC-AH have a role there?

The CMC-AH deployed missions to countries when the threat of introduction of a transboundary disease has increased. It may not be possible to prevent entry of pathogens, but, rapid detection and response has the potential to stop the threat developing to a full-scale emergency.

The CMC-AH work in the promotion of preparedness and contingency planning is exactly what SO5 sets out as needed across all of the major areas of work.



Mona Chaya, Senior Coordinator in AG.





Preparedness and contingency plans are key to controlling animal disease emergencies.

THE GEMP NETWORK



Over the course of 2.5 days, participants go through 7 modules based on FAO's "GEMP: The essentials".

With eight years of experience responding to animal disease emergencies, the CMC-AH has been able to see first-hand the importance of preparedness and contingency planning. This has led the Centre to continue organizing and facilitating workshops based on FAO's manual, "Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP): The essentials". The GEMP manual provides guidelines to animal health officials on preparing for, and responding to, animal health emergencies, and also defines global best practice for emergency animal disease preparedness and response.

To date, the CMC-AH has successfully conducted ten workshops, with 226 participants from 42 countries.

- National workshops were held in: Kenya in May 2013 in English; Tanzania in May 2013 in English; China in May 2013 in Chinese/English; and South Africa in August 2014 in English; and
- Regional workshops were held in: Uganda in November 2011 in English;
 Tunisia in September 2012 in French; Côte d'Ivoire in April 2013 in French;
 Jordan in November 2013 in English/Arabic; Nepal in May 2014 in English;
 and Panama in September 2014 in Spanish.

The GEMP workshop enables participants to exchange best practices, gauge their level of preparedness while reviewing and assessing their preparedness and response plans and identifying areas for improvement. Over the course of the workshop, seven modules are covered by CMC-AH staff and local facilitators. Break-out groups are also formed, allowing participants to work on desk-top



ACTIVITY REPORT

October 2012 – September 2014

exercises, putting into focus diseases that are relevant for the region(s) of those attending the workshop.

At the end of each workshop, an evaluation form is completed by participants in order for the Centre to receive feedback and improve upon future workshops. Many participants agreed that the GEMP principles should be extended to high level officers and decision makers within the government, and more specifically, within ministries of agriculture. In fact, some countries, such as Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, have requested national GEMP workshops after having been included in regional ones. In an effort to further facilitate the sharing and discussion created in each workshop, the CMC-AH has created a LinkedIn page called "GEMP Network", open to all past participants.

Given the importance of emergency management training and the success of GEMP workshops, the next step would be to run "train the trainer" workshops. The goal would be to build a team of workshop facilitators who are well-versed in GEMP principles and the manual, and subsequently, will bring this initiative to provincial and local levels of government. Part of this effort is also translating all GEMP materials into various languages. The initial English GEMP manual is already translated into French, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic, with Russian following shortly. The materials and presentations for the GEMP workshop have also already been translated into French, Chinese and Spanish.



GEMP participants receive certificates upon completion of the GEMP workshop.





CMC-AH lends its expertise to UN-wide disaster responses, like the Balkan Floods of 2014.

CMC-AH AND FAO

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Producing risk assessments for various diseases helps FAO Representatives and other FAO spokespeople to adequately engage the public and media. Comprised of staff from both FAO's animal health and emergency response and rehabilitation disciplines, the Centre is a unique platform of both technical and operational expertise. The CMC-AH conducts daily meetings to learn of any significant disease events with the monitoring system created by FAO, OIE and WHO, the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS). The Centre works alongside FAO's Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES), frequently using their experts as mission team members. For mission planning, much coordination takes place with field and regional offices, as they aide the CMC-AH greatly with local technical and logistical support, such as creating an in-country agenda for missions.

MATERIALS PRODUCED

In an effort to assist FAO and its communication on TADs, the Centre aides in the drafting of risk assessments, and provides its technical expertise. Having had much experience with HPAI, the CMC-AH continues to assist EMPRES with its risk assessments of influenza virus A(H7N9). These risk assessments¹ contain background information on the disease, assessments, and conclusions on the spread of influenza virus A(H7N9). Since the beginning of 2014, the Ebola virus disease (EVD) has ravaged much of West Africa. These outbreaks of EVD are thought to be initiated by spill-over events from an animal to a human, but the subsequent spread is from human to human. Considering the first exposure of human beings originates from activities linked to infected wildlife, a risk assessment was needed, and prepared by CMC-AH and AGAH staff.

1 http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/H7N9/



ACTIVITY REPORT October 2012 September 2014

MISSION PLANNING

With eight years of experience planning and deploying missions, the CMC-AH has developed a very organized and efficacious method for coordinating missions based on the Incident Command System (ICS). In August 2014, the CMC-AH aided AGAH colleagues in their mission planning to the affected African countries (Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia) for EVD.

Specifically, the Centre used the specially crafted Event Management Tracking System (ETMS) to aide in mission planning, followed by action planning meetings which result in daily action plans (DAPs). These tools allow event coordinators to effectively plan and conduct missions and archive all necessary documents and tasks, ensuring that all aspects of a mission have been thought through and carefully organized.

LEVEL 3 EMERGENCIES

As part of its platform, the CMC-AH has two operations rooms in FAO HQs, as well as web-conference technology. These facilities have been utilized in respect to various FAO-wide Level 3 Emergencies that have arisen since November 2013. Meetings and tele-conferences were held in the CMC-AH's operations room for the Level 3 Emergencies of the Philippines (Typhoon Haiyan), South Sudan (civil unrest) and the Central African Republic (civil unrest). Meetings have also taken place for possible Level 3 Emergencies, such as the Balkan floods, the civil unrest in the Gaza Strip and EVD in West Africa.



Experts from a range of organizations compose CMC-AH mission teams, who then give recommendations on preventing the further spread of diseases.





The Centre collaborates with global organizations in order to quickly mobilize experts for missions.

OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS



With the help from multiple governments and organizations, the CMC-AH is able to offer the GEMP Manual in all six FAO official languages.

JAPAN

From October to December 2013, the CMC-AH welcomed a loaned veterinary expert from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Japan. The veterinarian participated in the varied operations of the Centre and contributed his perspectives to emergency disease response, broadening the scope and outlook of the CMC-AH.

CHINA

On 28 May 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Director General of the Veterinary Bureau of China's Ministry of Agriculture and the CVO of FAO. The MoU is on the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases and Emerging Infectious Diseases. There was an annual review meeting from 22-23 May 2014 in FAO HQ where several staff members of the CMC-AH presented. Under this MoU, China nominated five experts for the CMC-AH to consider for its missions. The Chinese delegation also agreed to translate the GEMP manual in Chinese.

UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

The Government of the UK has funded a GEMP workshop in Jordan, held from 25-27 November 2013. 14 participants gathered from Jordan, Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt and Libya for the workshop. The Government of the UK was pleased with the outcome of the workshop, prompting them to fund future workshops scheduled for late 2014 and 2015.



ACTIVITY REPORT

October 2012 – September 2014

AUSTRALIA

Australia has assisted the Centre by providing financial support to missions; support that has continued beyond 2014. They have also provided a dossier of Australian experts that may be deployed within CMC-AH missions.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) area office for Southern Africa funded a national GEMP workshop in Pretoria, South Africa in August 2014, bringing together 29 participants from all nine provinces of the country. Two CMC-AH staff facilitated the workshop and were joined by a colleague from USDA-APHIS Pretoria.

FRANCE

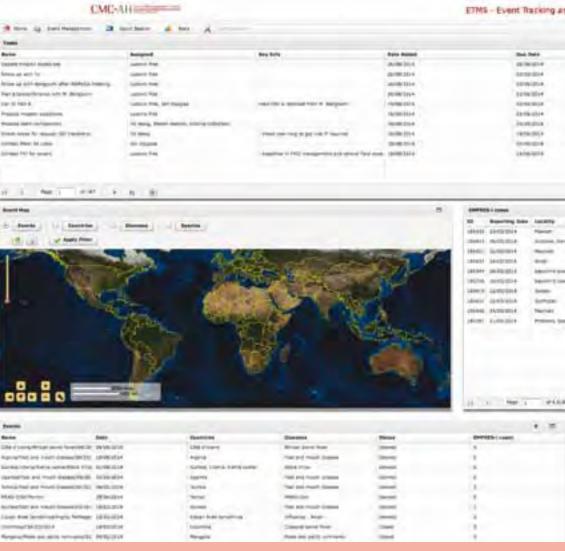
An agreement was signed on 31 May 2012 with France Vétérinaire International (FVI) in order to profit from its list of French speaking experts on animal health issues. The CMC-AH renewed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FVI on 24 June 2014, to last until 31 December 2014.

This LoA allowed the quick deployment of a small ruminant livestock expert for the mission in Mongolia on PPR in April 2014. It also allowed the CMC-AH to quickly deploy an expert from the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) on CBPP for a mission in Mauritania in April 2014.



Steering Committee Meetings are held with donors, international partners and stakeholders in order to receive feedback and suggestions on the Centre's activities.





ETMS assists mission coordinators in effectively conducting missions and archiving all relevant documents.

TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES





ICS principles guide the Centre in rapidly deploying missions.

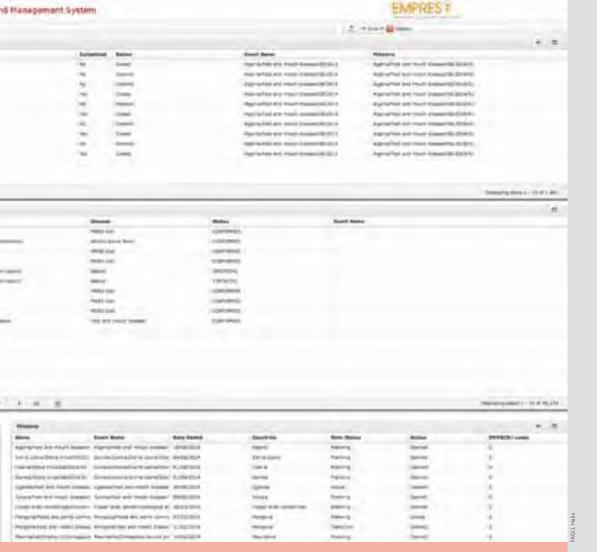
DISEASE OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION MANUAL

During the summer of 2014, a French veterinary student spending two months as an intern at the CMC-AH began working on the overall approach of a planned field diagnostic manual meant for use by veterinarians to investigate animal disease outbreaks. The manual will serve as a practical tool for field investigations while offering a methodological way to rule out certain diseases (prioritized diseases have been identified).

This manual provides key information needed in diagnosing a disease: It is therefore not an exhaustive manual on all animal diseases. The manual will be split into three parts: suggested activities before visiting the field, during the visit and after completing the field visit. After going through the easy-to-follow steps in the manual, a field veterinarian should be able to develop a preliminary differential diagnosis, ruling in or out, high-consequence diseases, collect the correct samples and advise farmers and other community health workers, if necessary.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS)

The Centre's SOPs relating to mission organization and deployment are directly modelled after ICS principles, ensuring swift coordination of all missions. The SOPs drafted for missions cover all the stages of planning, deployment and post-deployment: from disease tracking, to mission planning, to post-mission transition and review.



ACTIVITY REPORT

October 2012 – September 2014

In addition to drafting SOPs for missions, the CMC-AH has catalogued SOPs for printing and publishing materials, archiving files, ordering technological equipment and closing projects. All SOPs are constantly updated and revised to reflect changes within FAO and the Centre.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

The ICS is a standardized methodology used to organize, control and coordinate responses to emergency events. It was designed in order to improve upon emergency response operations by streamlining activities and creating a hierarchy of staff in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in times of crises. The CMC-AH applies ICS-inspired principles in all of its operations, delegating a coordination team for all of its activities (missions, workshops, etc.). The Centre has also organized ICS workshops in HQs for TCE and AGAH staff in 2012, as well as more detailed trainings for the Centre's own personnel.

WORK PLAN

CMC-AH personnel have routinely discussed and agreed upon tasks and goals for all members for the next two years. The resulting document forms the Centre's work plan, allowing the team to measure its progress on agreed upon activities and tasks. Meetings are held each month, giving the CMC-AH staff a chance to update colleagues on progress and new activities that should be added to the work plan.



The CMC-AH encourages its volunteers to take an active role in drafting tools which may be used by veterinarians in the future.

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The Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) is a primary facility of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal disease emergency response. A combined effort of FAO's Animal Health Service and FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division within the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD), the CMC-AH unites FAO's extensive technical and operational expertise with that of OIE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international, national and local partners.

With the support of its generous donors, the CMC-AH provides technical and operational assistance to help affected governments assess situations on the ground and develop immediate solutions to help prevent or stop disease spread. CMC-AH efforts also represent the first step toward broader assistance. Working to facilitate the transition from immediate, emergency assistance to longer-term support both in the field and at FAO headquarters, the CMC-AH initiates resource mobilization and project proposal formulation efforts for affected countries and regions.





