



Crisis Management Centre

The Rapid Response Facility for Food Chain Emergencies



Transboundary animal diseases, major plant pests and diseases, and global food safety issues, all represent a potential threat to the world's food chain, to the livelihoods of producers and, in some cases, to people's lives. The fact that they are very often fast-moving means that adequate response must also be rapid.

The case of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) crisis is an example of how threatening such crises can be, and how important fast and targeted action is to address them.



Safeguarding global biosecurity

FAO has launched the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) to streamline its crisis response capacity, to put in place the infrastructure necessary to be able to respond to future animal and plant disease and food safety crises, and in the long term make a major contribution to safeguarding global biosecurity.

The Centre's immediate priority is to respond to the current avian influenza crisis, but it has been designed to meet the challenge of other transboundary animal disease epidemics, plant pest upsurges such as locust infestations, and food safety scares.



Surveillance, warning and preparedness

It is the world's frontline facility for responding immediately to affected and at-risk countries the moment they issue a request for assistance, and it works in close cooperation with the appropriate ministries of these countries.

The CMC continuously collects information and analyses from the crisis areas of today and the potential hotspots of tomorrow. It combines and coordinates its tracking capacity with verification, validation and alert mechanisms of partner organisations like the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

During the course of a crisis, it collects and analyses information in near real time and issues warnings related to the situation. This means that when it springs into action, its officers have the up-to-date information they need to do their job.

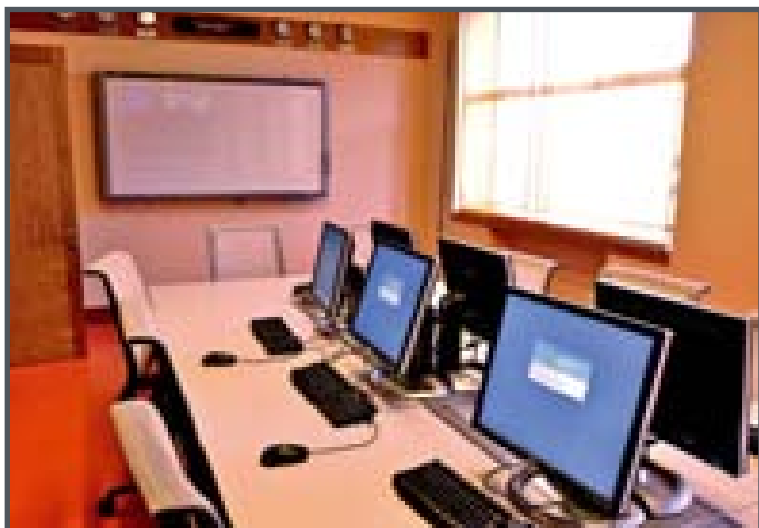


Rapid deployment

Two types of rapid deployment team spearhead the work of the CMC – rapid assessment teams and rapid response teams.

Both are staffed by top professional international specialists whose job it is to assess the situation on the ground and deliver rapid solutions that help bring an immediate halt to the events that led to the crisis.

These specialists come from a wide range of technical and scientific disciplines depending on the nature of the crisis in question and are supported by experts from many other sectors including economists, social scientists, information systems and data analysts, and communication professionals.



CMC staff

Equipped with the latest information gathering and monitoring technology, the Centre is run by a manager backed by a high-level team covering the centre's core activities: surveillance, warning and response, emergency operations, finance and administration.

Rapid deployment teams provide fast and effective specialized technical support whenever and wherever there is an outbreak of or slightest risk of infection from a transboundary disease, or there is a serious threat to food safety. The teams are staffed on an ad hoc basis, with members drawn from rosters of professional technical officers with widespread international experience, many of them based in FAO's partners throughout the world.





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