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EuFMD/EC actions funded under MTF/INT/003/EC

UPDATE – 4/2012 | EuFMD Secretariat

eufmd european commission for the control of foot-and-mouth disease

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SUMMARY

This Update is provided to the EuFMD Executive for the 83rd Session of the Executive Committee and should be read together with the **MID-TERM Report (**9/2011). Reports to the Executive Committee of the EC are accepted as part of the reporting arrangements to the DG-SANCO of the European Commission (EC) in fulfillment of the Contract between FAO and the EC relating to funding for the activities to be conducted by the EuFMD Commission. The current Contract was signed in September 2009 and has a term of 48 months.

The EuFMD Commission, at the 38th General Session in April 2009, adopted a four year Strategic Plan of activities, involving six components, with priorities for in-country actions being to support FMD control in Southeast Europe through greater management of the FMD risk in countries bordering to Turkey, in West Eurasia. These projects are coordinated with those of other Directorates of the EC and other funding agencies, to promote progressive control in the West Eurasian countries along a long term Roadmap.

Following signature of the financing agreement, specific activities of the EuFMD are initiated following response of the EC to proposals from the Secretariat or decisions of the Executive Committee at which the EC are represented.

The EC support is provided through a Trust Fund (TF), MTF/INT/007/EEC, with a total funding of 8 m€ for the four year period of the current agreement. Since September 2009, the EC has agreed funding of actions in six of the Strategic Plan components, with by far the largest being for in-country programmes in the Trans-Caucasus and Iran aimed at reducing the risk of new incursions of FMD into Turkey and Eastern Europe. Funding for Training of European veterinarians, for surveillance in the African proximity, for short technical studies, and for surveillance for FMD in Egypt.

In response to FMD outbreaks in Bulgaria in 2011, the TF was used for emergency funding purposes for procurement of FMD vaccines for re-enforcement of immunity in Turkish Thrace, and thereby protection of the three countries with common borders. In 2012 Emergency missions have been included to Turkey (Asia-1 vaccination effectiveness) and Egypt (SAT2 outbreaks). The EC also agreed to supply 500,000 doses of Trivalent A/O/Asia-1 vaccine to the trans-Caucasus to re-enforce the vaccination in spring 2012.

At the 39th Session in April 2011, the EuFMD Commission recommended **three additional components**. These are indicated as Components 7-9 below. For two of these, expenditures or activities had not been committed before April 2012.

The **six Components** reported in detail in the Mid Term report are:

1. Risk reduction in South-East Europe through support to FMD control in West Eurasia;
2. Activities to reduce FMD risk in the South and East Mediterranean countries;
3. Field based FMD Training Programme;
4. FMD surveillance in the African proximity;
5. Technical studies;
6. Response to FMD Emergencies.

The **additional Components** are:

7. Strengthening FMD laboratories in the Balkan Region;
8. Improved Contingency Planning through use of decision support tools;
9. World Reference Laboratory (WRL) contract – FMD surveillance support activities .

The work under each component is scheduled for completion in 2012 or before completion of the term Funding Agreement .

Annexes:

Annex I: Six-monthly report Iran

Annex II: TCC January report

Annex III: TCC six-monthly report (to be provided)

Annex IV: First Monthly report represent current situation of FMD in Egypt March 2012

UPDATE : MAIN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN OCTOBER 2011 AND MARCH 2012

Component	Subcomponent	Update – October 2011 to March 2012	Reports
1. Risk reduction in South-East Europe through support to FMD control in West Eurasia	West Eurasia Roadmap - Secretariat	3rd Roadmap progress review meeting held in Istanbul, March 2012	Draft recommendations (at meeting). Provisional Roadmap completed. Report being drafted
	Trans-Caucasus project	Autumn vaccination completed. Co-ordination meeting held for Spring 2012 campaigns. EC agreed to provide 500,000 doses of vaccine to fulfill project commitment to provide vaccine in spring 2012.	Co-ordination Meeting report. Monthly reports (to February- March 2012).
	Iran project	Major activities on track. Supervision mission completed 12/2011. Project timetable and delivery reviewed in march 2012 at co-ordination meeting in Istanbul.	Monthly Disease information reports. 6 monthly progress report – April 2012.
2. Activities to reduce FMD risk in the South and East Mediterranean countries	Egypt	Technical missions; lab and epi-support. National Sero-survey for PCP Stage 1 completed. EuFMD Project Phase 1, Final Workshop 29th February 2012.	Final Workshop report -29th March. National sero-survey completed and analyzed. Risk report (29th Feb) provided to EC/Executive.
3. Field based FMD Training Programme	Real-Time Training programme (NTC)	**Four** real-time Training Courses held in period.	Each Course reported (Training wikispace).
4. FMD surveillance in the African proximity		Annual FMD surveillance network meetings held and workplans generated. West/Central Africa: RESOLAB-FMD (Bamako, 12/2011) Eastern Africa : EARLN-FMD (nairbi, March 2102).	Monthly FMD report of the EuFMD includes input from the Network coordinators. Regional surveillance report - Annual Meeting.

Component	Subcomponent	Update – October 2011 to March 2012	Reports
5. Technical studies		Implemented: Anatolia wild boar surveillance project (CN approved 10/2011) 2. Wild boar tracking project Submitted to STC: CN for non-invasive sampling	Final report awaited from the Anatolia Wild Boar project. Initiated 3/2012 STC report, 3rd Feb.
6. Response to FMD Emergencies		1. Egypt- emergency mission 2. SAT2 diagnostic assays ordered. 3. Asia-1 vaccine effectiveness study, Turkey 4. Trans-Caucasus; negotiation with EC, provision by EC of 500,000 doses of TV vaccine in place of EuFMD project procurement.	Reported March 2012. Reported Feb 2012. Delivered March 2012.
7. Strengthening FMD laboratories in the Balkan Region		Tender launched 12/2011. Referred to the EuFMD Executive, 83rd Session.	
8. Improved Contingency Planning through use of decision support tools		Series of Workshops planned, with 1st CVO Workshop in Denmark, June 2012. Decision on support after WS 1 referred to 83rd Session.	
9. WRL contract		Funding agreement received from EC. Contract under development with WRL covering surveillance activities 2011-12.	

Annex I

Year II Mid-Year report
2012

Combating Foot-and-mouth Disease through enhanced and co-ordinated surveillance activities; Phase III of the FMD surveillance centre initiative

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October 2011 – March 2012

FAO of the UN

4/9/2012

Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Title: Combating Foot-and-mouth Disease through enhanced and co-ordinated surveillance activities; Phase III of the FMD surveillance centre initiative

Code: MTF/INT/003/EEC

Budget: USD 956,500

Effective starting date: October 2010

Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Title: Combating Foot-and-mouth Disease through enhanced and co-ordinated surveillance activities; Phase III of the FMD surveillance centre initiative

Code: MTF/INT/003/EEC

Budget: USD 956,500

Effective starting date: October 2010

Context of the Project:

The project seeks to reduce the risk of FMD circulation in Iran through the support to achieve the stage 2 of the progressive control pathway (PCP) at national level and entry into stage 3 in at least one high control zone, in Western Iran. In doing so, the project will improve early threat detection through a network of subnational laboratories in priority areas for FMD control, and upgrade, through twining programmes, the national epidemiology unit and national reference laboratory.

The project is consistent with:

- the actions engaged by the EUFMD Commission in the region (Projects MTF/INT/003/EEC), and the 4 year Strategic Plan of the EUFMD Commission;

- the West Eurasia FMD Roadmap for FMD control in 14 countries, including Iran and immediate neighbours;

- and the FAO's Strategic Framework.

Overall objectives of the project:

The overall objective of the project is to better understand the epidemiology and ecology of FMD in Iran and to reduce the risk posed by FMD, applying the progressive control pathway (PCP) approach.

Planned outputs and activities

Objective 1: Achieve PCP Stage 2 criteria and prepare for entry into Stage 3 in 2012-13 in at least one area

- Iran fully meets PCP stage 2 requirements in 2010-11, in respect of an implemented control strategy based on vaccination that targets the main points for entry and spread of FMDV with an associated monitoring system, information/reporting system, and progress assessment system that meets the needs of the Stage;
- Upgraded National Epidemiology Unit with greater human resources / capacity to assess impact of FMD prevention and control measures, and which can provide regional services;

- Iran participates in West Eurasia PCP activities, actively shares information using the regional FMD database and contributes to regional early warning.

Objective 2: Establish network of national and 5 subnational (SNL) FMD laboratories in Iran, in order to provide services required under Stage 2 of the PCP in all areas and Stage 3 PCP at least in one area (Western: West AZB Province).

The NRL would, through a Twinning Program, be expected to meet reference centre levels of performance for FMDV serology (SP and NSP) and for supervision of subnational centres conducting NSP serology and initial FMDV typing by ELISA and PCR.

- Established system for rapid FMDV typing through sNLs, with rapid FMD strain typing at the subnational level within 5 working days of outbreak investigation, through application of ELISA and PCR based serotyping and strain (lineage) specific primers;
- Subnational laboratories can perform NSP ELISA and undertake level of serological testing (> 3000 per year) and immediate serology (after outbreaks) as required to measure incidence in the 3 study areas;
- National reference laboratory (NRL) capacity demonstrated to be in place to supervise and control quality of services provided by subnational laboratories, including EQA;
- NRL has capacity to perform NSP ELISA and SP antibody titrations with test protocols harmonised and performance comparable to an international reference laboratory (IRL);
- NRL performance in external quality assurance for FMDV typing and serology is similar to those of European NRLs;

Objective 3: Establish FMD control zone in West Azerbaijan Province, meeting all the criteria of PCP Stage 2 and some of the criteria of Stage 3

- Monitoring system in place, as required by PCP Stage 2, with virological and epidemiological assessment of >90% of all outbreaks and sero-monitoring system for assessing incidence in key risk populations;
- All required lab services for Stage 2 and in line with Stage 3 are in place at project end;
- Establishment of emergency response capacity as required for stage 2 and in line with stage 3
- System in place for assessing impact of control measures and revising local Strategy, with more than 2 years of results to guide control policy;

Objective 4: To reduce risk of FMD incursions to Iran through improved FMD threat detection in "FMD hot spots/accumulation centres" and development of improved control measures to prevent spread to/from fattening farms in Central Iran

- Evaluation of a monitoring system for early detection of FMDV circulating in a animal markets, with recommendations for continuation/sustainability, and for local control measures
- All required lab services to be provided by sNL and the NRL, for rapid typing (<5 days) and rapid sequencing and vaccine matching to variants;
- System in place for assessing impact of control measures and revising local Strategy, with more

than 2 years of results to guide control policy;

Objective 5: To assist development and implementation of animal identification and animal movement control systems in Iran, as part of the effort to reduce the risks associated with movement and marketing of FMD infected animals

- Report giving recommendations, options, and plan of action and specifications and potential costs, for animal identification system(s) suitable for single Province or national application in Iran, capable of interfacing with current (or recommended) movement control system.
- Regular liaison meetings to address the issue of informal trade and risk of TADS spread, for the Western Borders (Western Iran Provinces bordering with Turkey, Iraq, and Azerbaijan) and Eastern Borders (AFG, PAK).
- Review of risks and risk reduction strategy to identify and address critical control points for entry of FMDV and spread within the livestock marketing chains in Iran.

Activities undertaken during the reporting period (October 2011 – March 2012)

Objective 1: Achieve PCP Stage 2 criteria and prepare for entry into Stage 3 in 2012-13 in at least one area

- Reports on the FMD situation and response (vaccination) have been submitted on a monthly basis since the initiation of the project.
- There was a mission to Iran involving an international expert epidemiologist and the EuFMD Secretary in Dec 2011 to provide technical support to the project and epidemiology training to IVO staff including training on development of a risk-based FMD control strategy
- Experimental studies have been designed to assess the serological response to vaccination, and these will be started as soon as possible
- Additionally, a field study was conducted to examine NSP and SP serology results in herds with known vaccination status and with and without known outbreaks (6 herds with 60 animals sampled). Results are pending
- Training on studying vaccine effectiveness was provided
- Iran fully participated in the W. Eurasia Roadmap meeting in March 2012, remaining in PCP Stage 2
- In response to discussions during the Dec 2011 mission, a training course in epidemiology ("Practical Epidemiology for Progressive Control") has been planned to be held over 8 weeks in the second half of 2012, and Iran is expected to send four trainees
- Samples have been submitted to the WRL for virus characterization
- Provision of 100,000 doses- Decivac FMD trivalent vaccine that could not be delivered to Caucasus countries –
- A project management meeting was held during the West Eurasia Roadmap meeting for FMD control, Istanbul March 2012 to discuss progress of project activities and to share developments within IVO and EUFMD.

Objective 2. Establish network of national and 5 subnational (sNL) FMD laboratories in Iran, in order to provide services required under Stage 2 of the PCP in all areas and Stage 3 PCP at least in one area (Western: West AZB Province).

The NRL would, through a Twinning Program, be expected to meet reference centre levels of performance for FMDV serology (SP and NSP) and for supervision of subnational centres conducting NSP serology and initial FMDV typing by ELISA and PCR.

- There was a mission focusing on quality control for SNLs in Oct 2011 involving an expert from ANSES. An important output from this mission was a detailed Action Plan to develop a quality control plan for the subnational laboratory network
- The Central Veterinary Laboratory was officially nominated as the national FMD Reference laboratory, following a key recommendation from the mission mentioned above
- Reagents were procured for sequencing in the subnational laboratory in Khorasan, and initial results from this activity were reported to the WRL. The IVO has committed to continue to report all results to the WRL to contribute to the regional assessment of the FMD situation, and also to regularly submit samples for vaccine matching
- The CVL participated in the Proficiency Testing scheme organized by the WRL (results pending)

Objective 3. Establish FMD control zone in West Azerbaijan Province, meeting all the criteria of PCP Stage 2 and some of the criteria of Stage 3

- A local FMD task force has been set up in W. Azerbaijan, and they are committed to developing a local FMD control strategy, working towards Stage 3 of the PCP-FMD
- A large number of outbreak investigations were done in the province, using the template developed with the backstopping epidemiologist. Results are being analyzed with input from the international epidemiologist
- A subset of samples from the large serosurvey have been sent to IZLER in Italy for confirmation of the results

Objective 4. To reduce risk of FMD incursions to Iran through improved FMD threat detection in "FMD hot spots/accumulation centres" and development of improved control measures to prevent spread to/from fattening farms in Central Iran

- This area was visited during the mission in Sept 2011.
- Studies were designed to study animal movements and the nature of markets, and included in the mission report. Implementation of these studies is pending
- Feasibility of market sampling was also assessed, but IVO does not consider this an immediate priority.

Objective 5. To assist development and implementation of animal identification and animal movement control systems in Iran, as part of the effort to reduce the risks associated with movement and marketing of FMD infected animals

- There was an expert mission on animal identification and registration held in Dec 2011, and the mission report, complete with practical recommendations, has been disseminated.

Planned Activities for the Next Half Year

Objective 1. Achieve PCP Stage 2 criteria and prepare for entry into Stage 3 in 2012-13 in at least one area

- Reports on the FMD situation and response (vaccination) to be submitted on a monthly basis for the duration of the project. These reports will be improved to provide a better assessment of vaccination activities.
- Missions by the project's backstopping and supervisory epidemiologists in May-June 2012
    - Control strategy will be further assessed and discussed during this mission
    - Further serological surveys will be planned , perhaps including a nationwide sero-survey to further identify risk hotspots and/or risky management practices
- Experimental studies to assess the serological response to vaccination;
- Implement regional data sharing initiative, starting with Iran and Turkey;
- A training course in epidemiology ("Practical Epidemiology for Progressive Control") has been planned to be held over 8 weeks in the second half of 2012, and Iran is expected to send four trainees;
- Review measures IVO takes to ensure FMD vaccine is of high quality, including a training mission by an international expert
- Provide technical input to IVO initiative to restructure IT system, including GISVet.

Objective 2: Establish network of national and 5 subnational (sNL) FMD laboratories in Iran, in order to provide services required under Stage 2 of the PCP in all areas and Stage 3 PCP at least in one area (Western: West AZB Province). The NRL would, through a Twinning Program, be expected to meet reference centre levels of performance for FMDV serology (SP and NSP) and for supervision of subnational centres conducting NSP serology and initial FMDV typing by ELISA and PCR.

- Follow-up mission focusing on laboratory quality control involving the expert from ANSES, including input on serological studies (above) and/or vaccine quality assurance procedures (above)
- Assess results from WRL proficiency testing
- Technical support in developing laboratory information system.

Objective 3: Establish FMD control zone in West Azerbaijan Province, meeting all the criteria of PCP Stage 2 and some of the criteria of Stage 3

- Province will be visited during mission in May-June 2012
- Design and implementation of socio-economic study of FMD impacts in W. Azerbaijan
- Review progress on provincial control strategy
- Follow-up on value chain analysis that was conducted in April 2011; further characterization of risk hotspots.

Objective 4. To reduce risk of FMD incursions to Iran through improved FMD threat detection in "FMD hot spots/accumulation centres" and development of improved control measures to prevent spread to/from fattening farms in Central Iran.

- Implement studies designed to study animal movements and the nature of markets
- Provide technical support to IVO's plans to enhance biosecurity and change live animal marketing practices.

Objective 5. To assist development and implementation of animal identification and animal movement control systems in Iran, as part of the effort to reduce the risks associated with movement and marketing of FMD infected animals.

Mission planned to Montenegro in June 2012 to learn about their animal I & R system

- This mission should also include an expert familiar with I & R systems in other countries that have had challenges in their implementation and maintenance (eg Turkey)

Provide technical support to planned I & R system, that is one component of restructuring of IT within IVO.

Main challenges encountered and solutions

1. It is proving challenging to integrate the increasing body of knowledge about FMD epidemiology into practical control measures and recommendations to improve the control strategy. The next mission (May-June 2012) will include a review of the control strategy and discussions on including of measurable indicators of implementation and impact.
2. There are many questions regarding the quality and purity of the FMD vaccines used. This impacts our ability to interpret the results of the serosurvey. More importantly, a good understanding of vaccine quality is absolutely fundamental to the design and implantation of an effective vaccination policy to control FMD. IVO will provide a description on current measures taken regarding vaccine quality, and an expert mission will be arranged providing further training on best practices. Serological studies will also be conducted to gain further insight.
3. The priority of IVO is to focus on FMD-related activities that will reduce the incidence and impact of FMD in Iran. IVO representatives have expressed a desire to limit the number of activities conducted at one time, to ensure that those undertaken are given due attention and performed at a high level of quality. Some project activities are not viewed as contributing to reducing FMD incidence , given the current environment (highly endemic country, questionable vaccine

efficacy). In the past, the market sampling as a means of developing an early warning system was particularly mentioned, because an effective response capacity is not yet in place to mitigate the detection of new strains.

Main progress made towards the achievement of project outcomes

- Epidemiology training thus far has demonstrated that much more use can be made of existing data through routine data analysis such as epidemic curves and the calculations of FMD incidence. These indicators are now included in IVO's analyses and presentations.
- The large NSP serosurvey has been done in W. Azerbaijan province, involving 9000 samples, demonstrated a very high prevalence of NSP antibodies at the epidemiology unit level (80%), and also at the animal level (40%). Risk factors for seroconversion included increased age, more than one prior vaccination, commercial farms (versus villages) and trading. Despite the fact that the survey targeted young animals (under 18 months), it is not possible to assess with certainty the amount of seroconversion due to use of the non-purified vaccine versus infection. However, a methodology involving changing the cut-off has been developed to assess the results at the population level, and should be valuable for further serosurveys in Iran and elsewhere.
- The understanding that clinical disease is only the tip of the iceberg of FMD virus infection. Control needs to focus on FMD virus transmission and, amongst other studies, disease outbreak investigations of clinical outbreaks are necessary to learn more about possible risk factors for introduction and spread
- There has been progress in the development and functioning of the subnational laboratory network following the expert mission in October 2011. A clear action plan has been developed, and persons nominated to implement it. Following this action plan, so far the CVL has been officially nominated as the national reference laboratory for FMD, and has participated in the WRL proficiency testing scheme.
- Iran fully participated in the West Eurasia Roadmap meeting in Istanbul in March 2012, sharing information and actively discussing the FMD situation with other countries in the region. They remain in PCP Stage 2, according to the provisional assessment results.

ANNEX II

Strengthening Foot-and-Mouth Disease surveillance and control in the Trans-Caucasian countries to assist progression on the West Eurasia FMD Progressive Control Pathway

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Monthly Report January 2012

Reporting officer (RO): Carsten J. Pötzsch, EUFMD International Consultant, Regional Project Technical Officer

National Consultants (NC): Tamilla Aliyeva, Azerbaijan (Azb)

Satenik Kharatyan, Armenia (Arm)

Zurab Rukhadze, Georgia (Geo)

Reporting date: 16.2.2012

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1. Plan of upcoming main activities

2. Regional situation

3. Project related activities in January

4. Activities planned for February

5. Other information

6. Annexes

Activities	Time of activities
Planning of spring vaccination	Dec 2011–Mar 2012
Spring vaccination	Feb – May 2012
Shipment of TCC sera to IZSLER	Feb/Mar 2012
Planning of spring 2012 sero surveys & supply of equipment	Feb/Mar 2012
Improvement of diagnostic capacities in the TCC labs (SP A and Asia 1 serology, FMDV PCR)	Feb – April 2012
Drafting and finalising national contingency plans, operational manuals and SOPs	Feb-July 2012
Simulation desktop exercise	Sep 2012

See detailed work plan in annex II.

2. REGIONAL SITUATION

1. Vaccination

The 2011 autumn vaccination was completed in Georgia in November and in Armenia and Azerbaijan in December. The final vaccination data are shown in the table below and in the Annex I.

Table: Autumn 2011 summary data: 1. Vaccination coverage per country, % vaccination coverage; average and range (in brackets) on district level; 2. Use of project vaccine (BV – bivalent vaccine, TV – trivalent vaccine)

	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Georgia
1. Vaccination coverage:			
Large ruminants (LR)	116 % (0 – 342 %)	75 % (0 – 181 %)	9 %(0 – 117 %)
LR booster vaccination	27 % (0 – 149 %)	0 % (0 – 6 %)	0 %
Small ruminants (SR)	16 % (0 – 321 %)	23 % (0 – 86 %)	0 %
2. Use of project vaccine (planned ; no. of doses)	TV: 250,000	TV: 450,000	TV: 120,000 30,000*

* emergency stock, left from the spring campaign, see June 2011 project report
Vaccination coverage can be > 100 % as the number of actually vaccinated animals is sometimes larger than the number of officially reported animals. In some Armenian districts booster vaccination is included in the figures

2. FMD risk situation and surveillance

- No outbreaks have been reported in the project area.
- The risk of FMD introduction and spread in the Trans Caucasus countries (TCC) is characterised by the following situation:
  - Animals are in stables and only use local pastures were appropriate; some movements to winter pastures have occured in Azerbaijan and Georgia.
  - Serious winter wheather in the southern Caucasus region further reduces contact between animals.
  - FMD outbreaks of serotype O Panasia-2 have occured in South Ossetia in August.
  - Large scale outbreaks continue to occur in neighbouring Iran and Turkey. Until end of November 1553 cases have been reported in Turkey in 2011. The serotypes involved were predominantly FMD A (65 %, Iran-05AFG-07), with occasional outbreaks of FMD O (ME-SA/PanAsia-2ANT-10) and FMD Asia 1. In Iran in 2011 1592 cases were reported. In the recent time serotypes A, O and Asia 1 were found in almost equal proportions. Most cases appear in areas adjacent to the TCC: eastern and NE Anatolia, and NW Iran.

- Of concern is the low protection of the Asia 1 - Shamir vaccine against the circulating virus and the low Asia 1 vaccination coverage in the TCCs. In autumn 2011 3.04 mill cattle were vaccinated with trivalent vaccine (TV), in this campaign all project vaccine used was TV. There are approximately 4.7 mill large ruminants (LR), 9.9 mill small ruminants (SR) and <0.3 mill pigs in the TCC.
- There are large scale national and cross-border ruminant movements due to official and informal international trade.
- Ruminant movements for trade and use of seasonal pastures are often uncontrolled.

3. PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY

1. FMD vaccination - Spring 2012

50,000 doses of trivalent project vaccine Decivac® (Merck/Intervet) have been supplied to Armenia on10.01.2012. EuFMD assisted with the approval of vaccine use without national registration. A vaccination trial on naïve ruminants was in principle agreed by the national authorities; however no naïve animals could be identified in reasonable distance to Yerevan in January.

No Decivac® vaccine was delivered to Azerbaijan and Georgia, see December report. The final amount of spring supply to the TCC is not definite; due to fewer than expected offers to the FAO vaccine tender the vaccine supply to the TCC might be lower than planned.

Georgia

The National Food Agency plans to purchase approx. 100,000 doses of FMD vaccine and has asked advice from EuFMD for the technical specifications.

2. Project mission of the RO to Azerbaijan, 30 January – 3 February 2012

The ToR of the mission were:

- to assess the FMD management capacity in Azerbaijan according to the draft PCP Assessment Tool
- to meet with the FAO representative and the authorities of the national VS, incl. CVO, heads of epidemiology unit and national vet. laboratory, vetsin rayons
- to review preparation for spring campaign
- to assess FMD risk related to animal movements and trade; visit of the Absheron livestock market
- to write a mission report

For details of the report and the “External assessment of Azerbaijan Stage 2 on the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD” see Annex II.

3. Sero surveys in the TCCs

Courier companies for the serum shipment to the IZSLER Brescia have been identified in all TCC.

Spring 2012 sero survey:

- According to the project workplan approx. 4000 sera will be collected in 2012; about 3000 sera should be collected for the spring survey and 1000 sera in autumn.
- The overall aims of the spring survey should be to:
    1. monitor the background virus circulation in the LR and SR populations (NSP study)
    2. assess the FMD circulation (and possibly monitor progress of control) in subpopulation(s) in which national FMD control has priority
    3. estimate population immunity and monitor the quality of the vaccination campaign
- The main objetive of the autumn survey is to estimate population immunity and monitor the quality of the vaccination
- NCs will agree with their national authorities detailed objectives of the spring survey and assess the needs for project supply of equipment for the 2012 surveys until end of February.

4. Improvement of diagnostic capacities in the TCC laboratories

There is a need to implement SP serology for serotypes A and Asia1 as well as PCR for FMD virus detection in the TCC laboratories. The new diagnostic methods are planned to be available for the spring sero surveys. Currently the following diagnostic methods are established: serological diagnosis of antibodies against non-structural proteins (NSP) and against structural proteins (SP) of serotype 0, virus detection using ELISA kits. The Bulgarian NRL for foot-and-mouth disease will assist with the improvement of diagnostic capacities in the TCC labs, and the following activities are planned:

1. Assessment of the needs in terms of equipment, training and further support for establishing SP A & Asia 1 serology and PCR for FMDV detection.
2. Development of technical specifications for purchase of reagents and equipment needed.
3. Implementation of diagnostic tests for detection of FMDV in field samples, including testing of probang/swabs samples (real time RT-PCR) and ELISA for Ab detection of serotypes A and Asia 1 (LPBE or SPCE, IAH, Pirbright, UK).
4. Training of the laboratory staff in the national labs in diagnostic tests for detection of FMDV in field samples (including testing of probang/swabs samples) and ELISA technique for Ab detection of serotypes A and Asia 1.
5. Back – up support and trouble shooting of diagnostic testing with the newly established methods in 2012.

5. Contingency planning

A draft FMD Contingency plan for Georgia has been prepared by T.Alexandrov, EuFMD, and sent to the veterinary department of the NFA for revision.

6. Project database - transfer of the data to EMPRES-i

The AGAH EMPRES team/D.Ettore has been updated with the most recent data. After February a tool for uploading monthly data into EMPRES-I will be released. The output variables and structure are agreed to be similar as in the MS Access database.

7. FMD Task force meetings

Azerbaijan on 24.01.2012

Issues and outcomes:

- Project update and activities were presented to new task force members
- NCs presented final results of the 2010/11 national sero surveys & of the autumn 2011 sero surveys
- Details of the distribution of vaccine and other preparation of the spring vaccination campaign were agreed

4. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 2012

1. FMD spring vaccination

- Detailed planning of the campaign according to the agreed risk populations, see December 2011 report, Annex IV
- Start a vaccine batch control trial with the Decivac® vaccine on naïve calves in Armenia

2. Sero surveys in the TCC

- Until end of February NCs:
    - agree with national authorities the objectives and design of the spring survey
    - assess the needs for project supply of equipment for the 2012 surveys until end of February
- Serum shipment to the IZSLER Brescia

4. FMD Task force meetings

Planned in Armenia and Georgia

5. National consultants

- plan details of the FMD spring vaccination campaign together with national authorities
- prepare project reports, use FMD database templates and provide further input to the database
- communicate and translate relevant project documents to their authorities
- maintain continuity in communication and reporting, and the national and regional FMD control

5. OTHER INFORMATION

none

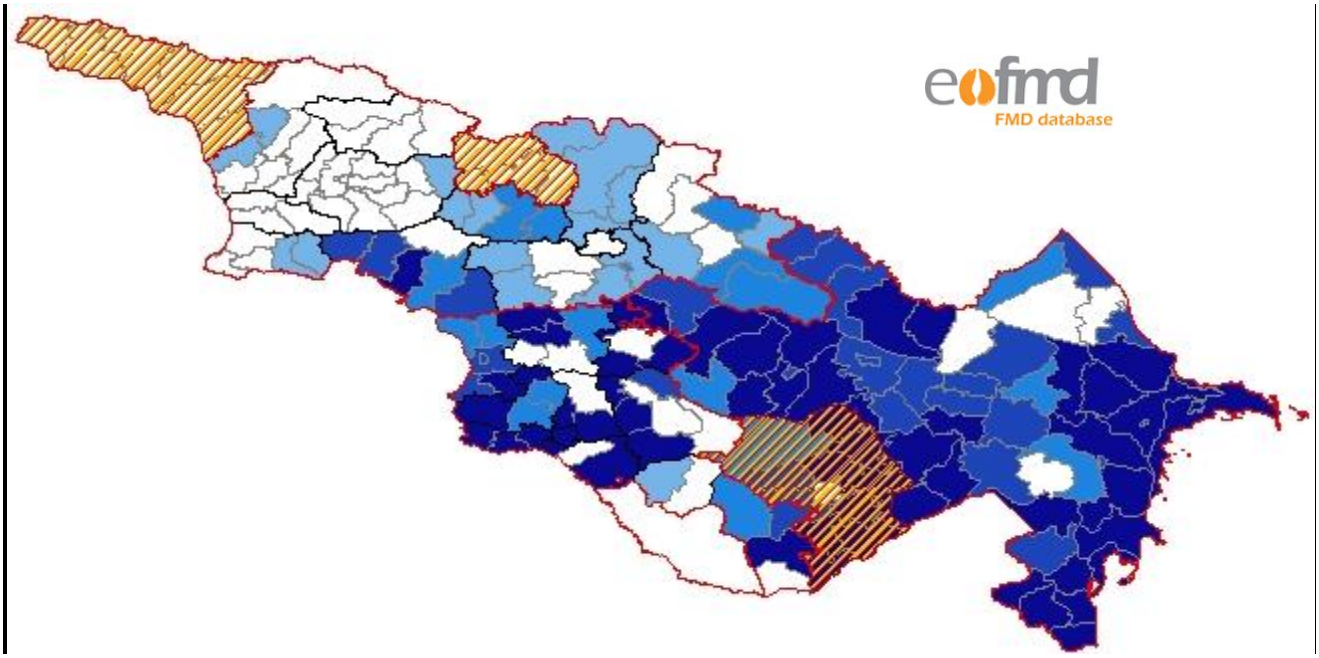
6. ANNEXES

Annex I. Maps of FMD vaccination coverage, autumn 2011

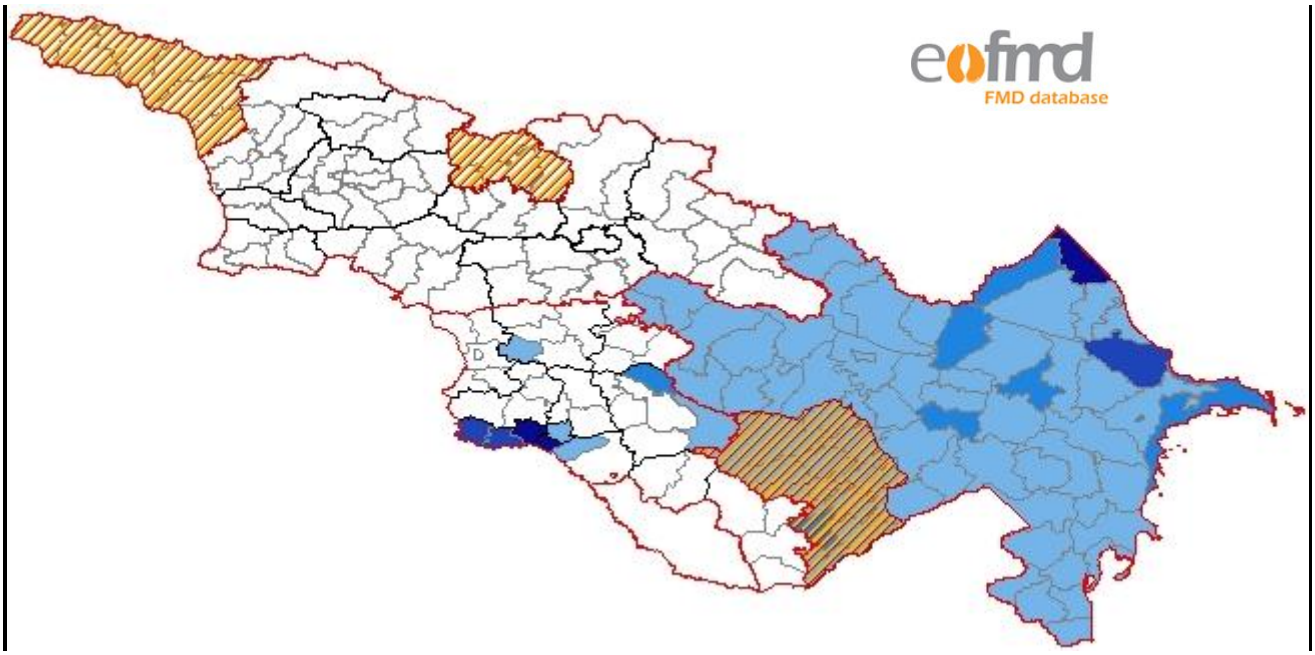
Annex II. Detailed project work plan

Annex I. Maps of FMD vaccination coverage, autumn 2011 – final data

Percent vaccination coverage (reported) per district in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia



a) **Large ruminant vaccination**



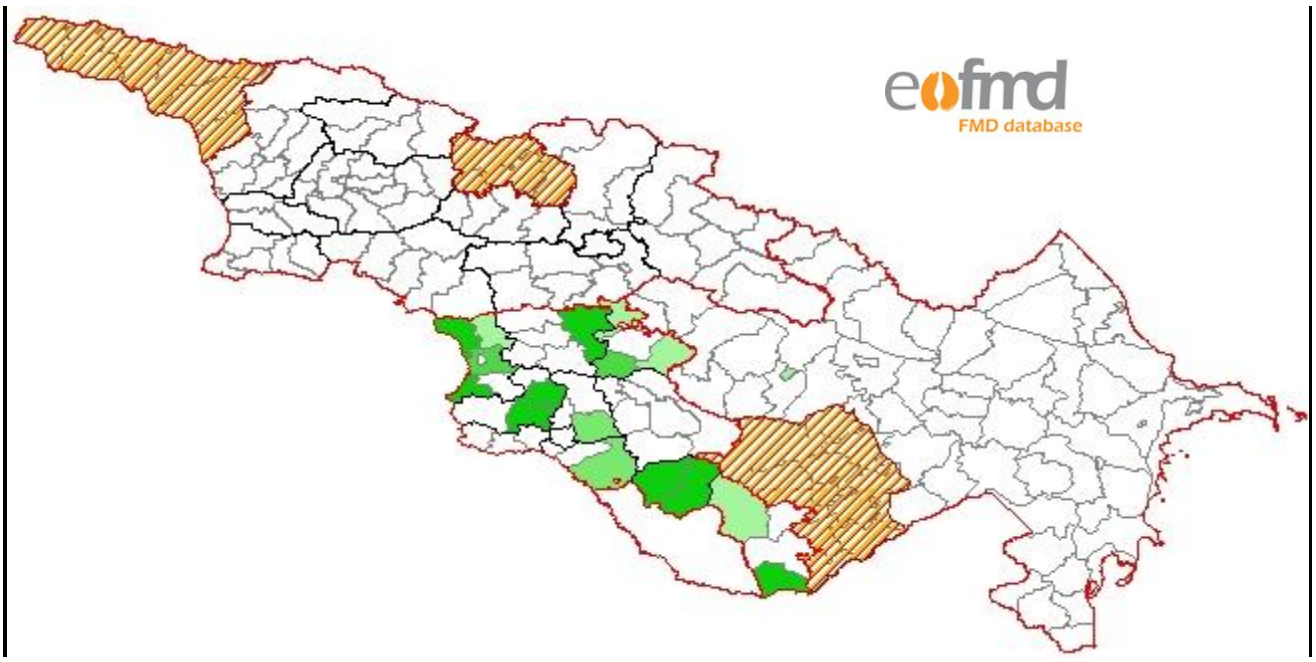
b) Small ruminant vaccination

Legend (% vaccination coverage)

- 0
- 1 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 84
- >= 85

Disputed areas

c) Large ruminant booster vaccination



Legend (% revaccination coverage)

- 0,00
- 0,01 - 25,00
- 25,01 - 50,00
- 50,01 - 85,00
- > 85

Disputed areas

Annex II. **Detailed project work plan**, current: 16.2.2012

Items (Acivity no.)	Details	Oct '11	Nov	Dec	Jan '12	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec '12
Work planning	Agreement on workplan with NCs	wk 43/44														
(1.2.)	Project coord. Meeting in Tbilisi			wk 50												
	Project mission to Azerbaijan															
sero surveys 2010/11	SP and NSP testing in TCC labs															
(1.5., 1.6.)	test results available electronically		wk 48/49													
	Shipment of TCC sera to IZSLER															
	SP and NSP testing at IZSLER															
	Data analysis, evaluation of results, review of FMD control															
sero surveys autumn 2011	sampling plan for vaccination monitoring agreed	wk 43														
(1.5., 1.6., 2.2.2.)	supply of sampling material and SP diagnostic kits															
	sample collection (3-8 wks p. vacc.)															
	SP testing in TCC labs		until	wk 48												
	test results available electronically			wk 49												
	evaluation of results, review of FMD control			wk 50												
sero surveys spring 2012	sampling plan agreed based on results of the 2010/11 & autumn 2011 surveys															
(1.5., 1.6., 2.2.2., 2.2.3.)	supply of sampling material and SP diagnostic kits															
	sample collection															
	testing in TCC labs															
	test results available electronically															
	follow-up investigations of NSP Ab clusters, incl. Lab testing															
	data analysis															
	evaluation of results, review of FMD control															
sero surveys autumn 2012	sampling plan agreed based on results of the 2012 spring survey															
(1.5., 1.6., 2.2.2., 2.2.3.)	supply of sampling material and SP diagnostic kits															
	sample collection															
	testing in TCC labs															
	test results available electronically															
	follow-up investigations of NSP Ab clusters, incl. Lab testing															
	data analysis															
	evaluation of results, review of FMD control															
FMDV PCR and WRL SP testing (2.1.1., 2.2.1.)	supply of reagents and diagnostics															
Training (1.9.)	FMDV PCR and WRL SP testing, 1 wk p. TCC															
Contingency planning (1.9.)	Review of the current (draft) contingency plans (CPs)															
	Drafting and finalising national contingency plans, operational manuals and SOPs															
	Desk top simulation exercise to test CPs															
Database use f. monthly reporting (1.3., 1.4.)	Developing EMPRES-i structure to incorpoate the EuFMD database data															
	start of use of EMPRES-i for monthly project reporting															
	adaptation of use of EMPRES-i for monthly reporting															
EQA participation (2.3.1.)	Participation in WRL proficiency test															
spring 2012 vacc. (1.1.)	vaccine tender and order															
subject to outcome of assessment of previous vacc. & needs	risk assessment and planning															
	vaccine delivery															
	vaccination															
autumn 2012 vacc. (1.1.)	vaccine tender and order															
(subject to outcome of assessment of previous vacc. & needs)	risk assessment and planning															
	vaccine delivery															
	vaccination															
	Legend:		time of acitivity													
			time of activity: indicative													

ANNEX III (to be provided)