

## 170th Session of the Council

### Item 7: Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform

Preventing the Next Pandemic (Covid-19 Response and Recovery Programme (RRP) Priority Area) remains high on FAO's agenda and is fully reflected in its One Health Programme Priority Area (OH PPA). The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) has been instrumental in delivering FAO's largest One Health capacity building programme over almost two decades now, with remarkable and constant investment in the Asia and Pacific region. Moving forward, the extension of the FAO Covid-19 RRP provides a crucial advocacy tool, helping to underline the importance of the food and agriculture sector in pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR). FAO recognizes that further awareness raising is required on this point, as pandemics are viewed as a human health issue, rather than recognizing the importance of cross-sectoral work, including agriculture and environment ministries and stakeholders. The progress made under FAO's Quadripartite Chair last year yielded the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), citing a core joint action track on zoonotic diseases. The OH JPA is gaining visibility and helping underline the importance of a One Health approach, emphasizing the need for heightened investment, including into pandemic preparedness at the source (e.g. tackling drivers and risk factors of pathogen spillover at the wildlife-livestock-human interface).

The lack of recognition of the crucial role of food and agriculture in Preventing the Next Pandemic (PNP) is somewhat reflected in the low USD figures attributed to the Covid-19 RRP PNP. However, it is also important to note that FAO's PNP and One Health work is gaining attraction, as a number of new funders have come on board (more information below).

Moving forward, FAO is stepping up outreach for its PNP work and for One Health, actively engaging members and partners through all channels, including via high level events. A key G20 One Health side event will take place on 8 June 2022, hosted by the presidency of the G20, Indonesia, in Lombok. A One Health policy brief drafted by the Quadripartite (FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO)) will result. Also, a brainstorming session on 22 June 2022 at the European Development Days in Brussels will discuss how to put the OH JPA into action.

Our motto here is one programme for joint results through multiple sources of funding and partnerships. We thank Australia for joining as first partners to the Agrifood Systems and One Health Programme Fund (MUL). This flexible fund fully aligns with FAO's OH PPA and incorporates PNP/ Priority Area (PA6) as a key pillar. The Joint FAO/WHO Centre (CWJ), in its lead of the OH PPA, plans to host an initial steering committee in June or July 2022 with Australia (at Australia's convenience) to discuss the allocation of their funding and also strategize together how to magnify outreach efforts to attract new partners. A Fund brochure and FAO One Health webpages are being refreshed for this purpose and the Fund showcased at key events - noting important synergies with other One Health funding in support of the OH PPA, alongside funding jointly managed with the Quadripartite (for example the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF)).

We take note of the rebalance of support to the South West Pacific and the CJW team is ready to discuss this. A Fund/MUL steering committee meeting is planned.

Also, it is important to note that the Covid-19 RRP PA6 and the OH PPA attracted new partners such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the European Union, Directorates-General (EU DG)/Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (SANTE), with others showing keen interest in the work. While these sources of funding are not channeled through the flexible MUL, these partners are contributing to important programme results for the OH PPA and PA6 respectively (tagged in our project reporting system). We hope to soon launch a dashboard of One Health

funded FAO projects to display this more accurately for partners and to support identifying further needs and gaps.

The FAO OH PPA represents FAO's contribution to the Quadripartite OH JPA. A joint resource mobilization task force has been working on a joint Quadripartite resource mobilization and investment leverage plan, including raising the profile of a One Health approach in G20 Health and Finance Ministers' Task Force meetings and prospective financing mechanisms (including the discussion on setting up a Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) World Bank Financial Intermediary Facility and also related discussions on the Pandemic Treaty). FAO would appreciate Australia's support in underlining that the Quadripartite should be part of the governance of this Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) as Pandemic PPR cannot be achieved by the World Bank and WHO alone. In addition, beyond Pandemic PPR (One Health is more than emerging zoonotic diseases, and includes Antimicrobial Resistance, Neglected Endemic Diseases etc.), concerted outreach for supporting national pathways to implement the OH JPA (i.e. strengthening National One Health approaches and systems) will progress this year. Building on successful joint Quadripartite funding mechanisms, such as the AMR MPTF, will be key.

FAO appreciates the comment provided by the Russian Federation. The low allocation of funds in the cases mentioned is also due the categorization in the monitoring system. For instance, if a budget for the next zoonotic pandemic is mobilized for emergency purpose, the allocation would automatically be shown under the first pillar related to Emergency and not necessarily under the technical area of work. The pillar on Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic under the COVID-19 Programme, which includes One Health, has recently attracted USD 10 million from United States American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for early warning and better biosecurity (committed end of year 2021 and being programmed over 2022-24). To note, and as an example of the above, some of the funds on early warning and pandemic response and preparedness were, as we understand, channeled as part of emergency contributions.

With regard to the reference and clarification related to the current situation in Ukraine and its impact on food security, the Secretariat has published a specific document CL 170/6, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, which includes detailed information.

Concerning the sanctions and considering that they don't include food and fertilizers, FAO is actively looking at levels of imports by import dependent countries, and how they are evolving over time to be able to provide policy and technical assistance support accordingly.

The activities of the Food Coalition in 2022 have been mainly focused on following up on the project proposals that have been received in response to the call launched last year at the G20 Foreign Affairs and Development Ministerial meeting in Matera. The call was aimed at inviting FAO Members to submit proposals to build multi-country and multi-stakeholder coalitions focusing on: (i) Global humanitarian response plan; (ii) Economic inclusion and social protection; (iii) Reduction of food loss and waste; and (iv) Agrifood systems transformation.

Ten proposals, submitted by a total of 27 countries and 37 non-state actors, were selected. Currently, the Food Coalition is mobilizing financial and technical expertise, with technical support from FAO technical divisions, for initiating activities on three of the proposals, involving 10 countries, focusing on:

- (i) the creation of a global network of farmers' markets;
- (ii) strengthening school feeding programmes in three Latin American countries; and
- (iii) promoting the uptake of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in three Asian countries.

Additional funds have been mobilized to:

- (i) scale-up technical assistance;

- (ii) support Ukraine through social protection interventions; and
- (iii) support the G20 Peer-to-Peer projects - a collaboration mechanism to share knowledge for sustainable agricultural systems, as mentioned in the Joint Communiqué of the Ministries of Agriculture.

For more details on the proposals: <https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/projects-portfolio/en>

Additionally, in light of the current global challenges and crises the Food Coalition has embarked on a brainstorming exercise to rethink its role and contributions. In doing so, the Food Coalition has expanded its areas of work beyond response and recovery from COVID-19 and according to its new vision and way forward. The Coalition has five pillars intentionally designed to address the fundamental and largely inter-connected challenges that we face now, and those that we might face in the future.

Under its revamped Vision and Way Forward and, more specifically, under its Pillar 1, Response to and recovery from global crises, and Pillar 2, Advocacy for solutions, the Food Coalition has hosted - on 27 May 2022 - its inaugural high level dialogue on “The impact of global crises on food security: women as key agents in transforming agrifood systems”. The panellists have included eminent women from politics and civil society. The Food Coalition’s main donor is the Italian Government with total announced contribution of EUR 15 million over a number of years, and the Government of Israel also contributed USD 50 000.

FAO thanks Indonesia for the recognition of FAO’s work to address the negative impact of COVID-19, and takes note to continue and strengthen the monitoring and analytical work.