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# PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

## Hundred and Tenth Session

Rome, 7 - 11 May 2012

### Progress Report on the Action Plan for the prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks

#### *Executive Summary*

1. As requested by the Programme Committee<sup>1</sup>, this paper provides additional information on the Action Plan<sup>2</sup> for the “prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks” with specific clarification on:

- a) how activities of the Action Plan would be prioritized according to availability of resources (including pursuing external resources);
- b) partnerships (in particular the Tripartite Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) within the framework of One Health); and
- c) linkages of the “One Health” Action Plan to FAO’s Programme of Work.

2. The Action Plan puts forward a programme in five Technical Work Areas supported by three Functional Work Areas<sup>3</sup> (see PC 106/3). The Action Plan will create a more robust global health system that effectively manages major animal health risks, paying particular attention to the animal-human-ecosystem interface, and placing disease dynamics into the broader context of agriculture and socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. This involves an integrated scientific management of animal associated health risks within the FAO One Health initiative and the FAO/OIE/WHO joint commitment to the One Health concept.

3. Given the wide range of activities described in the Action Plan and the limited funding resources currently available, six broad actions are prioritized for the first phase (2011-2013):

<sup>1</sup> cf. CL 143/7 para. 8

<sup>2</sup> The Action Plan (2011-2015) entitled “Sustainable animal health and contained animal related human health risks – in support of the emerging One Health Agenda – Applying lessons learned from HPAI in the prevention and containment of major animal disease and related human health risks” was endorsed by the Programme Committee at its session of March 2011 (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/023/MB873E.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> The five Technical Work Areas are: (1) Understanding the cross-sectoral nature of health hazards; (2) Fostering collaboration between animal, human and environmental health sectors; (3) Promoting animal health strategies that are socially acceptable and economically viable; (4) Strengthening capacity of health systems for policy and strategy formulation; and (5) Developing core technical capacities of animal health systems to deal with diseases at national, regional and global levels. The Action Plan is upheld by three Functional Work Areas: (A) Ensuring adequate human resources; (B) Communicating the Action Plan appropriately; and (C) Establishing robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

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i) continue the campaign against H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) with greater emphasis on a long-term approach to disease control in endemic countries; ii) develop the progressive control pathway approach for priority diseases; iii) strengthen the international capacity for emergency response support; iv) develop an upstream approach to disease prevention and control through better understanding disease drivers and risk factors for disease emergence, persistence and spread; v) support disease intelligence and global early warning; and vi) provide support to disease impact and socio-economic analyses.

4. The Action Plan calls for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration between animal, human and wildlife/environmental health sectors. In this respect, FAO is working, in close collaboration with its global partners such as OIE, WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and others to progressively incorporate these dimensions of animal (domestic and wildlife) and public health protection, introducing a broader scope in disease risk analysis and management. Regular partnership consultations and collaborative discussions take place on a consistent basis in order to better coordinate, decrease potential redundancies and facilitate partnership efforts.

5. While the implementation of the Action Plan requires an experienced team both at headquarters and in the field. It is of note that the bulk of ECTAD<sup>4</sup> is decentralized to deliver programmes under the Action Plan and FAO's mandate in close collaboration with decentralized offices.

6. It is estimated that the above six priority activity areas for 2011-2013 would require incremental resources of USD 51 million. Potential funding would need to be identified from the Regular Programme as well as extrabudgetary sources.

#### *Suggested action by the Programme Committee*

7. The Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the updated information provided in this report on implementation of the Action Plan for the prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks in response to the request of the 108th Session of the Committee;
- b) note the One Health approach as an integral building block of FAO's programme, and its linkage to the future strategic direction and Strategic Thinking Process of the Organization, in particular within the context health, nutrition and safety, management of natural resources, and global and regional partnerships.

#### *Introduction*

8. At the 108th Session in October 2011, the Committee reviewed supplementary information provided in response to its request at the 106th Session on the Action Plan for the "prevention and containment of major animal diseases and related human health risks" and requested further specific clarification on:

- a) how activities of the Action Plan would be prioritized according to availability of resources (including pursuing external resources);
- b) partnerships (in particular the Tripartite Agreement with WHO and OIE within the framework of One Health); and
- c) linkages of the Action Plan to FAO's Programme of Work

9. The Committee requested that a Progress Report on the Action Plan be submitted to its next regular session in May 2012. This paper is submitted in response to the Committee's request, and provides an overview of the implementation status of the Action Plan.

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<sup>4</sup> The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease Operations (ECTAD) is a global operational platform established in 2005 to respond the avian influenza. Its mandate has been extended to address other emerging and re-emerging animal diseases of global concern. ECTAD plays a key role in the implementation of the Action Plan

## A. Priorities of the Action Plan

10. The Action Plan will create a more robust global health system that effectively manages major animal health risks, paying particular attention to the animal-human-ecosystem interface, and placing disease dynamics into the broader context of agriculture and socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. This involves a multidisciplinary integrated scientific approach to management of animal associated health risks within the FAO One Health initiative and the Tripartite FAO/OIE/WHO agreement.

11. Given the wide range of activities supporting the Action Plan and the limited funding resources currently available, the Action Plan emphasizes six broad priority actions for the first phase of the Action Plan (2011-2013). Identification of these priority areas takes into account the immediate capacity requirements and needs for better management of animal associated health threats at global, regional and country levels, as well as FAO's mandate and comparative advantages. As the Action Plan progresses and more funding becomes available other noteworthy activities will be undertaken to complement the ongoing activities in order to achieve the goals and the objectives of the Plan by 2015.

12. The following priorities are set for the period 2011-2013:

***1) Continue the campaign against H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) with greater emphasis on a long-term approach to disease control in endemic countries***

13. FAO's six-year collaborative Global Programme for prevention and control of H5N1 HPAI has significantly contributed to limiting the impact of the disease, establishing stronger national systems, and strengthening regional coordination for disease preparedness, prevention and control. While sustained coordinated action has progressively reduced the number of countries affected by HPAI, there remains a high-priority need to address the elements that inhibit progress towards complete elimination of the H5N1 virus in the poultry sector and strengthened disease prevention worldwide. HPAI persists in poultry in at least five countries (Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Viet Nam and China) and continues to pose a public health risk globally and a major socio-economic challenge. This priority is in line with the recent FAO call for renewed commitment and progressive control in all the endemic and at-risk countries and regions towards complete eradication of the disease by 2020. Therefore, a large amount of work under the Action Plan will remain prioritized on assisting endemic and at-risk countries in identifying and pursuing improved control efforts specific to their needs, with greater emphasis on a long-term approach to disease prevention of future threats. Funds available for these activities under ongoing projects are approximately USD 27.5 million. Only 9% of these funds will be available for 2013. Additional funding estimated at USD 15.0 million is required to maintain and support activities under this priority area through the end of 2013.

***2) Develop the progressive control pathway approach for priority diseases***

14. A second high priority of the Action Plan is to build upon the investment and lessons learned from HPAI and extend these to progressively and more effectively address other transboundary and/or zoonotic animal diseases. In this respect, FAO continues to target high-impact diseases and zoonoses, with development of regional roadmaps for progressive disease control and working directly at the local level with countries and regions with national disease control programmes projects. A major novel initiative was undertaken on the design of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) progressive control pathway (PCP) and regional roadmaps customized to the socio-economic and developmental settings at the subregional level and to differences within the circulating virus populations. The FMD PCP is expected to form the backbone of the Global FAO/OIE Strategy for the control of FMD that is currently under development. The Action Plan sets out activities in this priority area to develop a PCP approach, with appropriate disease specific modifications, to other diseases of global concern such as peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, brucellosis, rabies and african swine fever. An additional funding of USD 11.5 million would be required to focus the Action Plan activities in this priority area through the end of 2013.

***3) Strengthen the international capacity for emergency response support***

15. This priority area would allow FAO, in partnership with OIE and WHO, to ensure through engagement with funding partners, that adequate resources are available for international capacity in guidance and support of countries requiring emergency responses. This includes activities such as in-country missions, training, review of response plans, simulation exercises and legislative reviews, among others. Available funds to build capacity for emergency response will be spent in 2012, but additional funding estimated at USD 4.0 million would be required to maintain this priority area until the end of 2013.

***4) Develop an upstream approach to disease prevention and control through better understanding disease drivers and risk factors for disease emergence, persistence and spread***

16. Activities under this priority area include integrated epidemiological and socio-economic studies in order to identify and analyze disease drivers and risk factors in main livestock production systems and value-chains in order to identify critical points for disease control. Also, work would focus on further developing disease information and surveillance systems that also manage animal health data and integrate livestock mapping, genetic information on animal pathogens and other relevant agro-ecological information sources at national, regional and global levels. Most of project funds earmarked for this priority area will be spent by the end of 2012 and an additional funding of about USD 8.0 million is required to support these through 2013.

***5) Support disease intelligence and global early warning***

17. This priority area focuses on disease intelligence and epidemiological analysis to ensure that accurate, timely information is collected, analyzed and disseminated to enable countries to be prepared for, and respond promptly to possible incursions of disease. FAO hosts the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) platform, but in cooperation with OIE and WHO information is collected and assessed from official and unofficial sources and used to provide the most current global and local intelligence on disease presence, movement, and trends. GLEWS helps to provide warning messages based on the most up-to-date scientific information available, and provides a basis for more accurate risk assessments to be conducted by the international scientific community, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the forecasting of global disease patterns and threats. To cover the shortfall in the funding of this priority area, an additional amount of about USD 4.5 million would be required to maintain and support this work through 2013.

***6) Provide support to disease impact and socio-economic analyses***

18. Most activities related to this priority area consist of developing user-friendly tools for the socio-economic impact assessment of diseases, developing a framework for priority setting in disease management and assessing the impacts of specific diseases on economic growth, trade, food security and the livelihoods of all actors in affected value chains. As the Action Plan progresses and more funding becomes available, the next level of activities under this priority area builds upon the initial work and focuses on developing sustainable approaches that work in real-world settings. These approaches are intended to provide countries with tools to better formulate tailored, effective and successful disease prevention and control programmes because they would take into account stakeholder, economic, livelihoods, compensation and cultural aspects that allow more targeted interventions with community buy-in. Funding requirements are estimated at USD 8.0 million. As of March 2012, no funding is available to support these activities.

**B. Partnerships with global and regional partners**

19. The Action Plan calls for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration between animal, human and wildlife health sectors. In this respect, FAO is working, in close collaboration with its global partners such as OIE and WHO to progressively incorporate these dimensions of animal and public health protection, introducing a broader scope in disease risk analysis and management, and is co-convener, together with UNEP, of the working group on wildlife diseases. Regular partnership consultations and collaborative discussions take place on a consistent basis via multiple specific meeting venues in order to better coordinate, decrease redundancies and facilitate partnership efforts.

Collaborative efforts are fostered particularly through work and activities under the following initiatives:

- a) *The Tripartite FAO/OIE/WHO agreement* to advance the One Health agenda at the global level.
- b) *The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)*, a shared FAO/OIE initiative, to target TADs and major zoonoses, with development of regional roadmaps for progressive disease control and elaborated directly with the concerned countries. This initiative provides support to the second high priority of the Action Plan.
- c) *The Global Early Warning System (GLEWS)*, a joint FAO/OIE/WHO tool, to provide alerts and early warning messages with forecasting and disease intelligence support. GLEWS work rely on livestock and animal health risk mapping facilities, disease information software packages and global level data repositories, shared with OIE and WHO.
- d) *The Crisis Management Center-Animal Health (CMC-AH)* to coordinate interventions in response to transboundary animal disease outbreaks, providing emergency response and initial risk assessment with identification of strategies for disease control and prevention for the immediate to long term.
- e) *The OIE/FAO Animal Influenza network (OFFLU)* to support laboratory and field surveillance programmes that manage data on animal pathogens and integrate other relevant disease information sources at national, regional and global levels.

20. In addition to these coordination platforms, other collaborative initiatives are now encompassed in the FAO Action Plan to foster collaboration and partnerships with OIE, WHO and others. These include, but are not limited to:

- a) *The Emerging Pandemic Threats Programme*, a USAID-funded initiative established in 2009 to expand upon the lessons learned in combating the global H5N1 HPAI pandemic. Within this initiative two programmes support specific activities of the Action Plan:
  - *EPT plus*, a new joint programme that will reflect the honing of FAO's surveillance of influenza viruses over the years, which now increasingly focuses on monitoring for pathogens with pandemic potential in the mixing of crowded human populations with domestic pigs, domestic poultry, wild waterfowl and farmed ducks.
  - *IDENTIFY*, a joint programme established to address gaps and strengthen collaboration in human and animal health laboratory and surveillance activities. This includes continuing facility upgrading, training and collaboration between regional and international reference laboratories for diagnostics and quality assurance, increased cooperation between human and animal surveillance systems in analyzing data, timely sharing of comparable epidemiological and pathogen data and effective strategies for improving national, regional and community level pandemic preparedness and response.
- b) An EU-funded project highly pathogenic and emerging (or re-emerging) diseases (HPED) provides funding to strengthen animal health and human health services and to develop regional efforts to combat H5N1 and other diseases. This project, however, is limited to Asia (SAARC and ASEAN).
- c) *A collaborative effort with OIE and AU-IBAR* is related to improving veterinary governance at the country level by enabling national veterinary services in Africa to have the capacity to enhance institutional capacity for animal health policy and strategies formulation and implementation based on clear governance principles, and use socio-economic data to leverage resources and to target interventions.
- d) Information regarding other collaborative programmes is available upon request (e.g. Australian Partnership on Global Animal Health and Biosecurity Initiatives, support for the One Health initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa and Bangladesh through an Irish trust fund).

- e) Information is also available upon request regarding ongoing and further efforts on partnerships with various private sector groups, academia and others.

### **C. Linkages of the Action Plan to FAO's Programme of Work**

21. The Action Plan is an integral element of FAO's livestock sector strategy (SO B – *Increased sustainable livestock production*) and all activities under the five technical areas of work contribute specifically to the Organization Result (OR) B2 – *Reduced animal diseases and associated human health risks*. The Action Plan also contributes significantly to SO I (especially OR1 and OR2) and many activities are connected to specific ORs under other relevant strategic objectives such as SO D (food safety), SO C (fisheries), SO F (natural resources management) and SO K (gender).

22. The Action Plan progressively incorporates the cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary dimensions of animal and public health protection, introducing a broader scope in disease risk analysis and management through linking the veterinary perspective with food security, public health, sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and sustainable development considerations.

23. Partnerships within the Organization are making slow progress even though the importance of building a stronger multidisciplinary integrated scientific approach within the One Health framework to improve understanding related to animal and veterinary public health concerns is well recognized. These internal partnerships aim to strengthen national/regional policies, and capacities/systems for detection, monitoring, regulation and management of high-impact diseases and food-borne pathogen contamination, including antimicrobial resistance, and food chain risks along the dairy, beef, poultry, and pig value chains. Progress could be improved if the One Health initiative was woven within of the fabric of an FAO corporate strategy.

24. Other in-house collaborative work in the Action Plan includes the development of joint research activities in disease ecology and disease transmission, as well as the creation of a Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health with UNEP to better identify the interactions at the wildlife/livestock/human interface and to promote a multidisciplinary integrated scientific approach to wildlife health and disease ecology within the One Health framework.

### **D. Update on the implementation of the Action Plan**

25. The Action Plan funding needs are projected over the five years (2011-15) at USD 193.8 million as extrabudgetary contributions, in addition to the allocated resources under the core funding of the Regular Programme for Strategic Objective B in the PWB 2012-13.

26. The Action Plan is heavily dependent on extrabudgetary voluntary contributions through donor-funded projects. Despite all efforts to mobilize resources and pursue funding partners to support the Action Plan under the umbrella of the FAO One Health initiative, the funding situation, especially beyond 2012, is uncertain. This may compromise effective implementation of the Action Plan and put the achievement of objectives and expected outcomes in jeopardy.

27. The implementation of the Action Plan requires an experienced team at headquarters and in the field. The majority of the ECTAD - the main implementing platform of the Action Plan - is decentralized to deliver programmes and projects under the Action Plan and FAO's mandate in close coordination with decentralized offices. The approach and modality of this implementing platform may be reviewed in future within the context of the Organization's ongoing decentralization efforts.

28. Implementation of the Action Plan started in July 2011 by mapping all ongoing projects on HPAI and other high-impact diseases (transboundary and zoonotic) against the five technical areas of Work of the Plan, and integrating new projects as they are funded. Available project funds in July 2011 (USD 38.4 million) and new funding (USD 37.8 million<sup>5</sup>) since July 2011, for a total of USD 76.2 million have allowed continued HPAI activities, as well as beginning some priority activities at global and country levels. Incremental resources of USD 117.6 million (USD 193.8m –

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<sup>5</sup> Voluntary contributions for projects that have a timeframe beyond December 2011 and which are operated by the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease Operations (ECTAD) with TCE as Budget Holder.

76.2 m) will be required to cover all activities of the Action Plan over the projected five-year period. Of this, USD 51 million would be required to support and focus work for 2012-2013 within the six priority areas as identified above (see Annex 1).

29. Of the total funds of USD 76.2 million earmarked for the Action Plan, approximately USD 27.5 million (36%) is focused on HPAI with remaining funds dedicated for specific activities on other TADs and cross-disciplinary activities within the six priority areas. Most of the USD 76.2 million will be spent by the end of 2012, with USD 11.2 million (15%) remaining for maintaining the Action Plan's implementation in 2013.

30. The majority of the USD 76.2 million earmarked for the Action Plan is dedicated to support specific actions under the technical areas of work and USD 2 million (2.6%) contribute to functional areas of work of the Action Plan.

#### **E. Field programme**

31. The Action Plan has been translated into local, national, subregional and regional programmes adopting multisectoral and multidisciplinary veterinary-public health approaches. A measure of this progress is reflected in the number of countries, subregions and regions where strategic documents and/or programmes have been developed and are adopting a One Health approach to tackle high impact diseases and diseases emerging at the animal-human-ecosystem interface. A total of 15 strategic programmes were developed in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe and Latin America.

#### **F. Monitoring and evaluation**

32. A global monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework has been developed to monitor and evaluate the implementation, progress and results, as defined in the overall logframe of the Action Plan. Furthermore, the M&E framework includes monitoring and reporting on the contribution of the Action Plan achievements towards FAO's Strategic framework.

## Annex 1

### Funding situation of the Action Plan (USD million)

	Project funds available since July 2011	Gap in funding requirements	Total estimated funding
<b>Technical Areas of Work</b>	74.2	94.8	169.0
<b>Functional Areas of Work</b>	2.0	22.8	24.8
<b>Total</b>	76.2	117.6 <sup>6</sup>	193.8

### Gap in funds per prioritized areas for 2012-2013

Priority areas	Funding requirements (USD million)
Priority 1 HPAI	15.0
Priority 2 Progressive Control Pathway for Priority Diseases	11.5
Priority 3 Emergency Response Capacity	4.0
Priority 4 Understanding Drivers of Diseases	8.0
Priority 5 Disease Intelligence and Early Warning	4.5
Priority 6 Disease Impact and Socio-economic Analysis	8.0
<b>Total funding needed 2012-2013</b>	<b>51.0</b>

<sup>6</sup> This amount represents the additional funding required to support all activities of the Action Plan over the projected 5 year implementation period. Of this, USD 51 million are required to support the priority areas identified for 2012-2013.