



“Emergency support to improve surveillance and control of African swine fever (ASF) in West and Central Africa”

Project code: OSRO/RAF/803/IRE

Resource partner: Ireland

Contribution: EUR 300 000 (USD 341 297)

Implementation: 08/01/2019–07/01/2020

Target areas: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau



Contact

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Objective: To provide emergency assistance to selected countries to improve surveillance and control of African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks and mitigate risks for transmission of the virus.

Key partners: Veterinary Services Directorates of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau

Beneficiaries reached: National veterinary services, pig farmers, rural communities, regional bodies and institutions, ministry officials, and other civil society stakeholders in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau, as well as vulnerable food insecure communities in West and Central Africa indirectly.

- Activities implemented:**
- Conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis of the epidemio-surveillance system along the pig sector value chain in five regions of Burkina Faso: Centre, Centre-West, Centre-South, Hauts-Bassins and South-West.
 - Carried out a risk mapping assessment in Cameroon, outlining ten regions as high-risk ASF areas and subsequently conducted risk-based surveillance in these areas: Centre, East, Littoral, North-West, West, South and South-West regions in the southern part of the country and Adamawa, Far North and North in the northern part.
 - Facilitated the regional coordination meeting on ASF surveillance and control in West and Central Africa from 7 to 9 October 2019 in Accra, Ghana. The meeting was attended by Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) and key actors in the pig sector from eleven countries: Benin, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. Also present were World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and FAO representatives from headquarters, regional offices and the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD).
 - Facilitated a regional training on ASF, specifically on field investigation and laboratory diagnostics in West and Central Africa from 19 to 21 November 2019 in Accra, Ghana. The meeting was attended by 20 epidemiologists and laboratory experts from ministries responsible for livestock and agriculture from nine countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Sierra Leone and Togo, as well as the CVO of Ghana and the FAO-ECTAD West and Central Africa team. A number of recommendations were made to countries, FAO regional laboratories and resource partners. Following the training, ministry staff from the Gambia went on to train six regional laboratory officers and three Central Veterinary laboratory officers on ASF laboratory diagnostics.
 - Created an ASF subgroup in West and Central Africa facilitated by the establishment of a WhatsApp network for information sharing and education, currently consisting of 30 people from 12 countries.

Results:

- Enhanced the national animal disease epidemiological surveillance network in Cameroon.
- Increased understanding of epidemiology and socio-economic drivers for ASF transmission and spread in West and Central Africa.
- Strengthened regional capacities of veterinary services in disease surveillance and control.
- Strengthened regional capacities in laboratory diagnostics and capabilities.
- Improved coordination and awareness between actors in integrated national and regional coordination systems, mechanisms and networks.
- Increased awareness and reporting of ASF in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau.