

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR FMD CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN

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Background

- FAO (through the OSRO/AFG/402/JPN project) and the General Directorate of Animal Health and Livestock (GDAHL) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) are working together to implement activities aiming at bringing Afghanistan in stage 2 of the PCP-FMD;
- Activities are implemented in the framework of a Public-Private-Partnership called Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS);
- SMCS identifies the private sector as the entity through which field activities (i.e. vaccination) can be implemented;
- The public sector bears the responsibilities of establishing the field procedures to be used and for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of the implemented activities.

Background

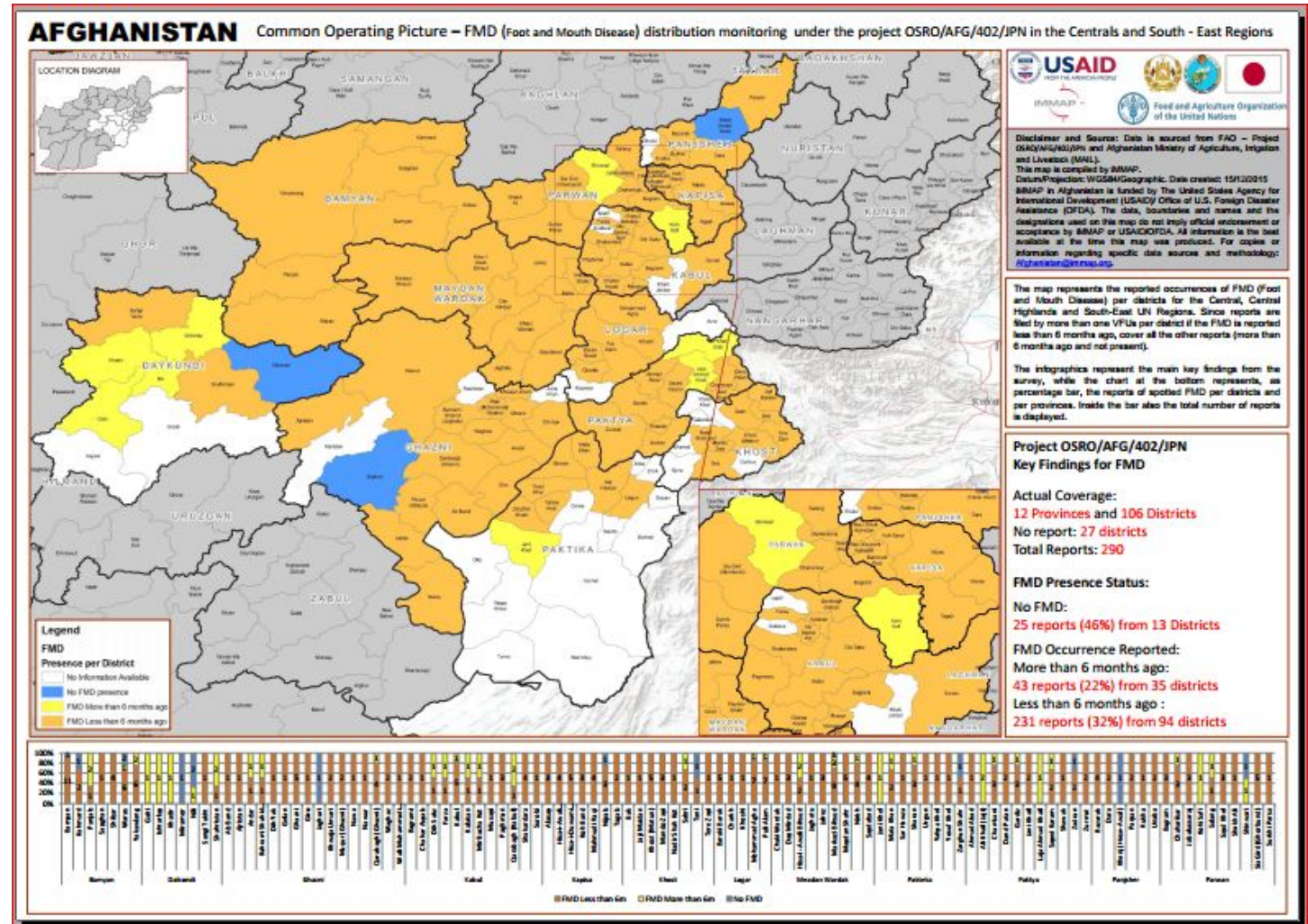
- The framework for the activities is a national program under implementaiton;
- Five main pillars:
 - Strengthening the laboratory capacity at both laboratory and field level
 - Improving the current surveillane system for FMD and other notifiable diseases
 - Implementation of a targeted vaccination program
 - Improvement of the current legislation framework
 - Promote a more intensive involvement of stakeholders' on FMD control and prevention.

Strengthening the diagnostic capacity at both laboratory and field level

- At laboratory level a diagnostic system is in place at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) with a very good capacity (RT and Conventional PCR, ELISA for antigen detection, NSP and SP antibodies are in place);
- An International Laboratory Specialist from Iran is currently based in CVDRL and support the daily activities of the laboratory;
- FAO supports also for the provision of diagnostic and laboratory reagents;
 - 190 tissue samples submitted and tested from 1 January to 4 October 2016 with 137 scoring positive: n. 95 for type O, n. 9 for type A and n. 33 type Asia1;
 - Serology has been conducted for both NSP and SP antibodies to estimate baseline prevalence of FMD and to assess the immune response to vaccination.

Strengthening the diagnostic capacity at both laboratory and field level

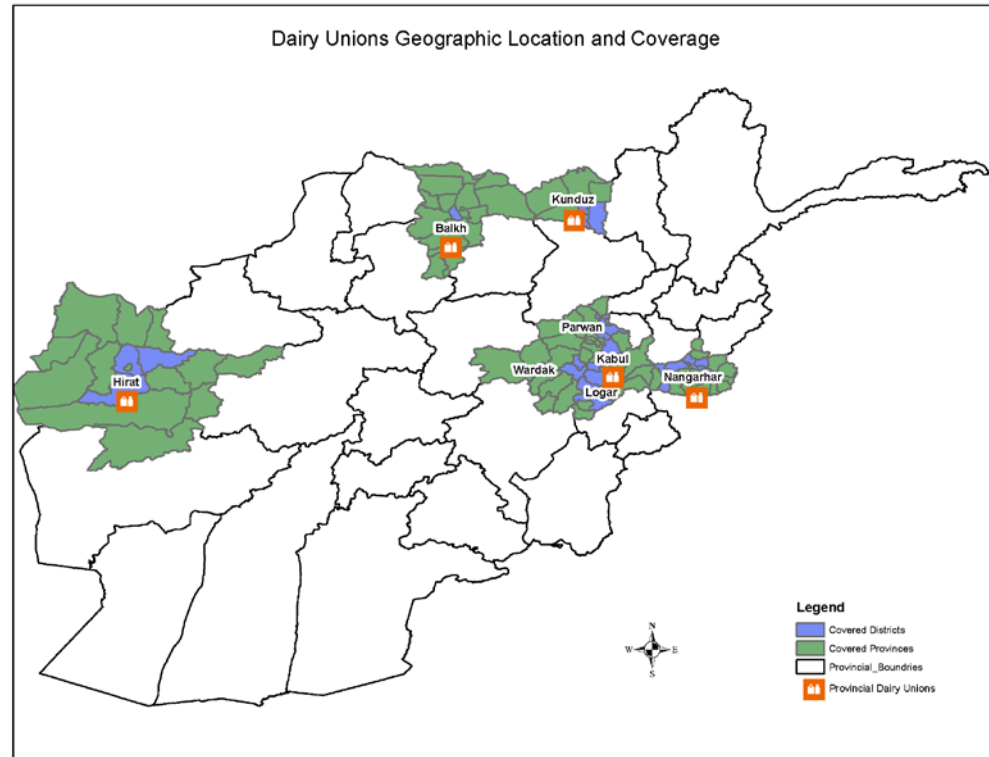
In coherence with this pillar a refresh training for Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) has been conducted from 31 October to 14 December 2015 involving 1,031 veterinarians and para-veterinarians throughout the 34 provinces of Afghanistan (n. 55 training sessions held);



Improving the current surveillance system for FMD and other notifiable diseases

- Current surveillance system based on 340 contracted private Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) that report on occurrence of a list of notifiable diseases each month;
- There is consensus among the stakeholders supporting this system (MAIL, World Bank and FAO) that it can be further improved;
- The framework for this PPP is the SMCS.
 - FAO has proposed in parallel with the implementation of vaccination against FMD and PPR to pilot a reporting system based on text messages;
 - A monitoring system in Live Animal Markets is under implementation;
 - Main issue remains the response mechanism (i.e. emergency vaccination).

Implementation of a targeted vaccination program



- Members of the cooperatives conferring milk to the five Dairy Unions established in Afghanistan are the target for the FMD preventive vaccination campaign;
- A first pilot campaign was conducted in late 2015 (9 927 animals belonging to 3,064 producers);
- A second campaign covering all the cooperative members conferring milk to the dairy unions was concluded at the end of August 2016 (38,400 dairy cattle vaccinated belonging to 7,619 producers);

Improvement of the current legislation framework

- Recently (July 2016) an Animal Health Veterinary Act (AHVA) has been approved by the Parliament that will bring Afghan animal health policy into consistency with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines;
- This is relevant because of the recent access of Afghanistan in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the obligation that the country has to fulfill the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary agreements (SPS).
 - The main issue remains the significant amount of work that needs to be done to formulate regulations (in the framework of AHVA) and then operationalize those regulations with appropriate procedures.

Promote a more intensive involvement of stakeholders' on FMD control and prevention

- FAO and GDAHL promoting engagement of VFUs (through the intermediation of NGOs) to carry out vaccination and deliver extension services to the farmers;
 - Expanding the enrollment of dairy producers into the cooperative system and consequently their enrollment into the preventive vaccination program against FMD.
- Livestock owners are expected to gain a better understanding on the importance and benefits of preventive diseases and be willing to invest in preventive vaccination.
 - Promoting enrollment of more dairy producers into the cooperative system has secondary beneficial effects also on food safety.



Thanks

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