ECOWAS COMMISSION
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Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in ECOWAS Region: Epidemiological Risks, PCP-FMD Progress & Regional Strategy (2025–2030)

13th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs Africa

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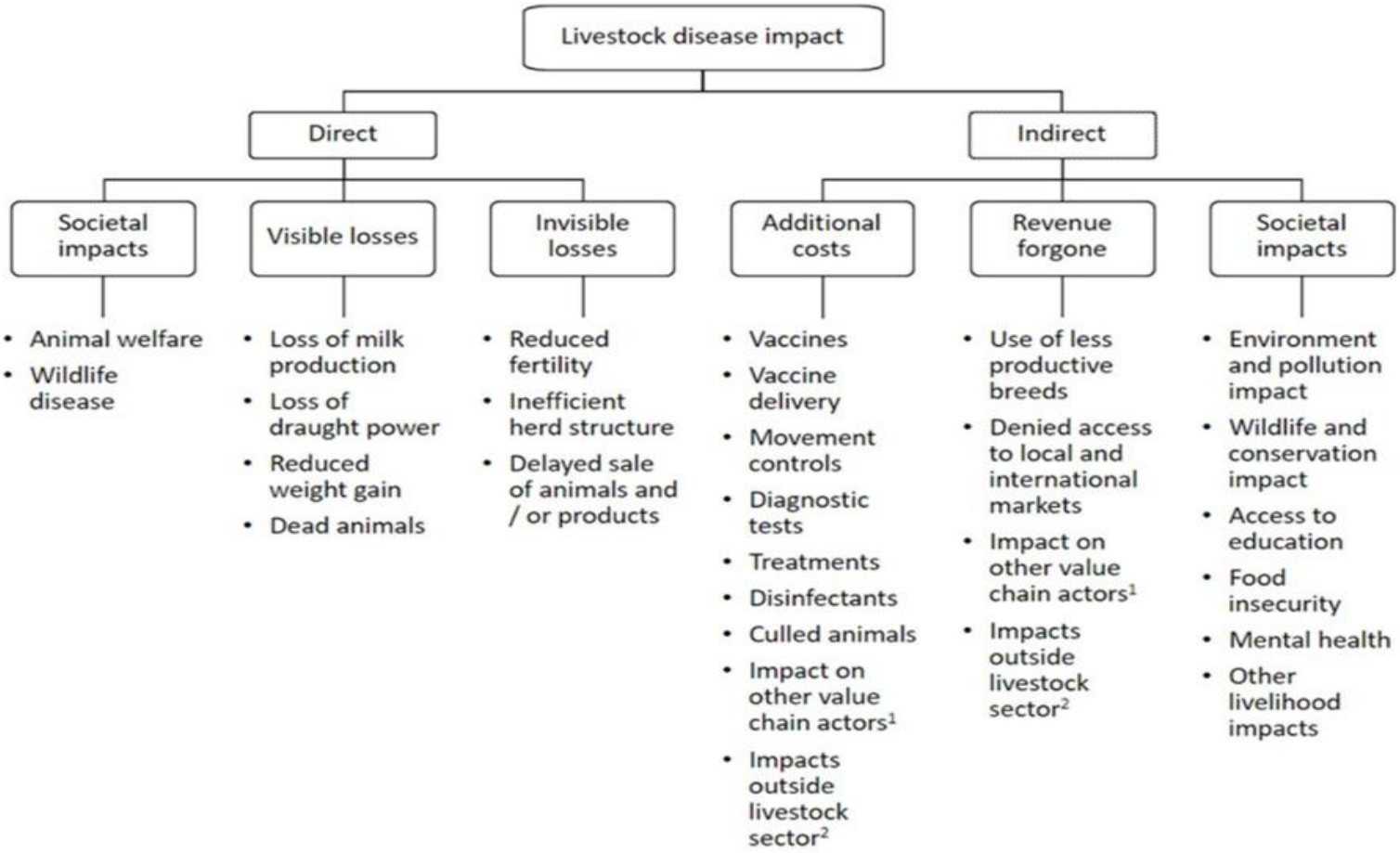
Presentation outline

1. Regional Context & Livestock Importance
2. FMD and its impact in the ECOWAS region and Transmission Drivers
3. Circulating Serotypes and Transmission Drivers
4. FMD Progressive Control Pathway in ECOWAS Region
5. Regional Strategy for the Control of FMD
6. Challenges for FMD Control in West Africa
7. Recommendations
8. Conclusion

1.Regional Context & Livestock Importance

- Livestock accounts for up to 30% of agricultural GDP in West African countries, supporting household food security and rural livelihoods.
- Accounting for up to 30% of agricultural GDP in some countries, where the majority of households are at least partially dependent on livestock for their livelihoods.
- Production losses alone have been estimated at USD 2.3 billion in Africa (Knight-Jones and Rushton, 2013).

2. FMD and its impact in the ECOWAS region



3. Circulating Serotypes and Transmission Drivers

Circulating serotypes

- Four distinct serotypes circulate simultaneously across West Africa: O, A, SAT 1, and SAT 2.
- Zero cross-immunity between serotypes requires precision polyvalent vaccination matched to endemic circulating strains.

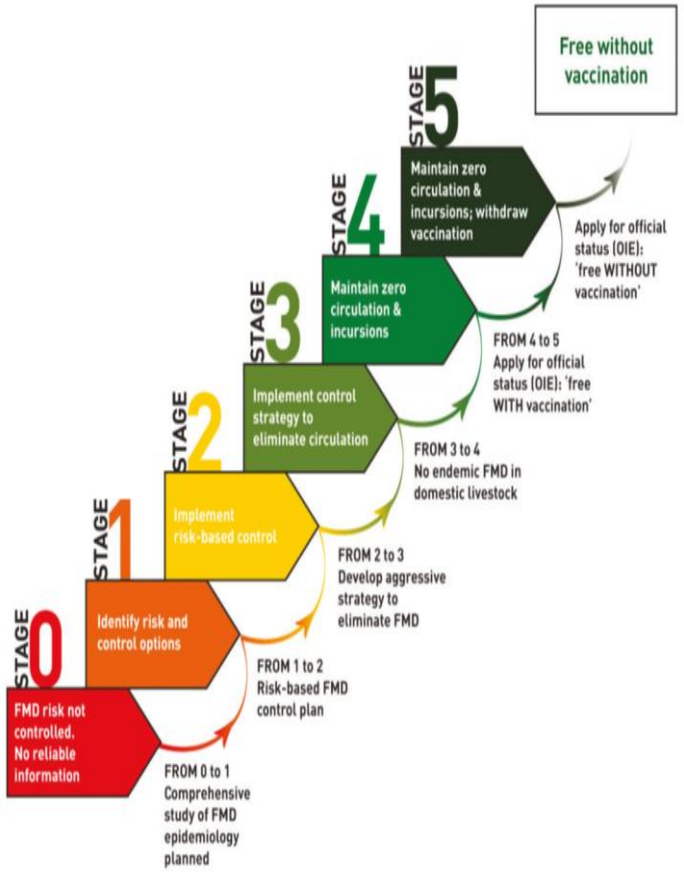
Transmission Drivers

- Uncontrolled transhumance corridors and unregulated commercial cattle trade connect Sahelian herds to coastal meat markets.
- African buffaloes (Syncerus caffer) act as lifelong wildlife reservoirs maintaining persistent SAT lineages.

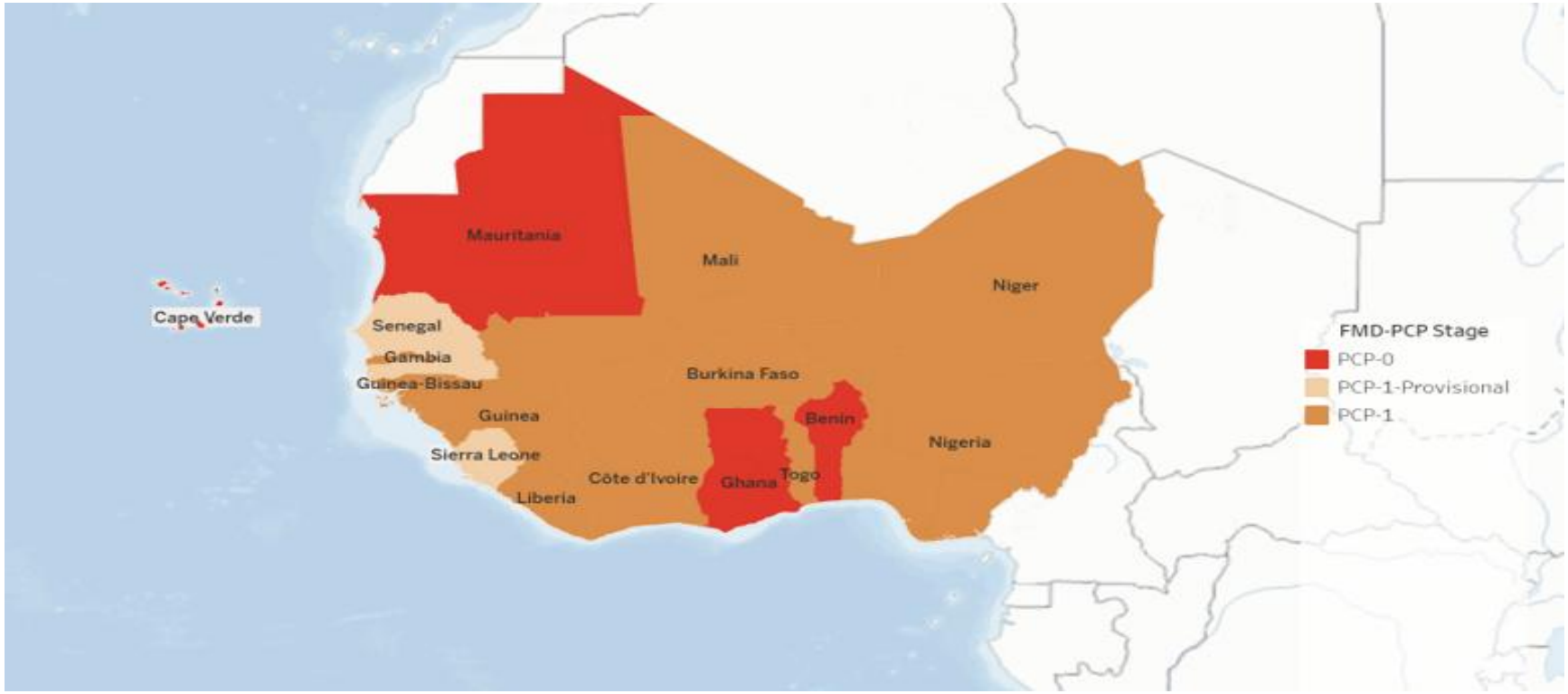
4. FMD Progressive Control Pathway in ECOWAS Region

- FMD is endemic and widespread across the ECOWAS region, and despite consistently being listed as a priority disease, only limited and patchy FMD control programmes have been applied in the region.

- Most countries in the region have engaged in the FMD Progressive Control Pathway (PCP-FMD) roadmap, with several progressing from Stage 0 to 1.



FMD Progressive Control Pathway in ECOWAS Region continue…

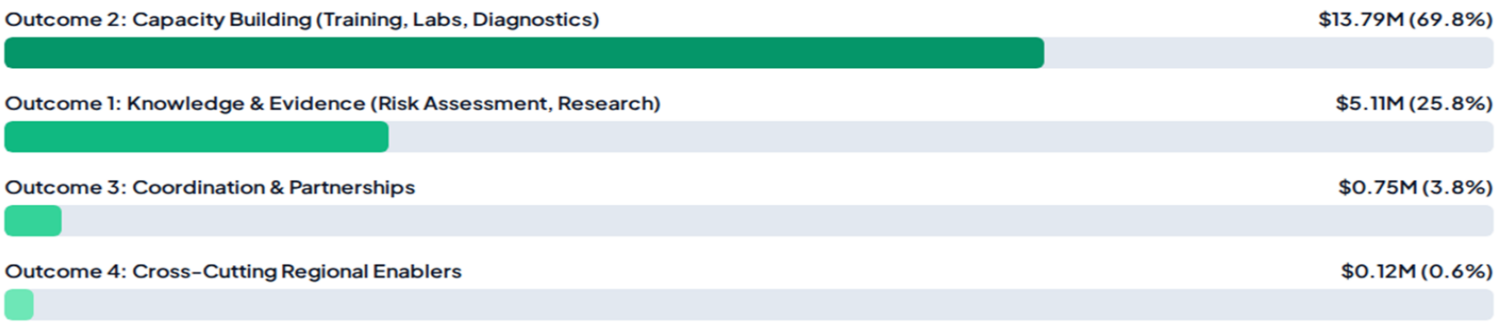


Source: UN. 2024. PCP-FMD dashboard available at https://www.gf-tads.org/fmd/progress-on-fmd-control-strategy/en/, consulted on 27 February 2025. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dotted or dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

5.Regional Strategy for the Control of FMD: $19.77M

FINANCIAL PLAN (2025–2030)

5-Year Regional Strategy Budget: $19.77M Nominal



- **The Three Strategic Pillars (2025–2030)**

PILLAR 1: INFORM

Knowledge & Evidence

Regional risk mapping, molecular epidemiology, and socio-economic impact studies.

PILLAR 2: SUPPORT

Capacity Building

Strengthening veterinary laboratories, field epidemiologists, and PVS performance tools.

PILLAR 3: FACILITATE

Coordination & Policy

Regional vaccine pooling, joint cross-border campaigns, and public-private partnerships.

6. Challenges for FMD Control in the ECOWAS Region

- Limited disease surveillance resulting in ongoing gaps in knowledge concerning the epidemiology of FMD in the region, including monitoring circulating strains
- Weak biosecurity measures with limited awareness about FMD and its control
- Lack of vaccination in some countries and extremely limited use of vaccines in others, limited vaccine production in the region, and the need to ensure vaccine quality and accessibility and adaptation to local strains.
- Insufficient human, material and financial resources for veterinary services.

7. Recommendations

- Boost regional production capacity and streamline cold-chain logistics across border areas.
- Coordinate joint cross-border vaccination schedules and surveillance checkpoints along primary transhumance corridors.
- Monitor the wildlife–livestock interface, focusing on African buffalo reservoirs, to detect SAT spillover early.
- Integrate molecular epidemiology and serotyping into routine surveillance across all member states.
- Support countries currently at Stage 0 (e.g., Ghana, Benin, Mauritania) in conducting baseline epidemiological studies to transition into Stage 1.
- Assist countries in provisional or confirmed Stage 1 to formalise Risk-Based Strategic Plans, qualifying them for official Stage 2 progression

8. Conclusion

- Foot-and-Mouth Disease continues to limit rural livelihoods, food security, and cross-border trade in the ECOWAS region, causing annual production losses of over **USD 2.3 billion**.
- Due to four active serotypes and widespread transhumance corridors, national efforts alone are not enough. ECOWAS RAHC remains available to support Member States in the progressive control of FMD in the region.

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Thank you

Merci

Obrigado