GF-TADs Africa

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

African Union

Pandemic Fund: Update on Activities in Africa

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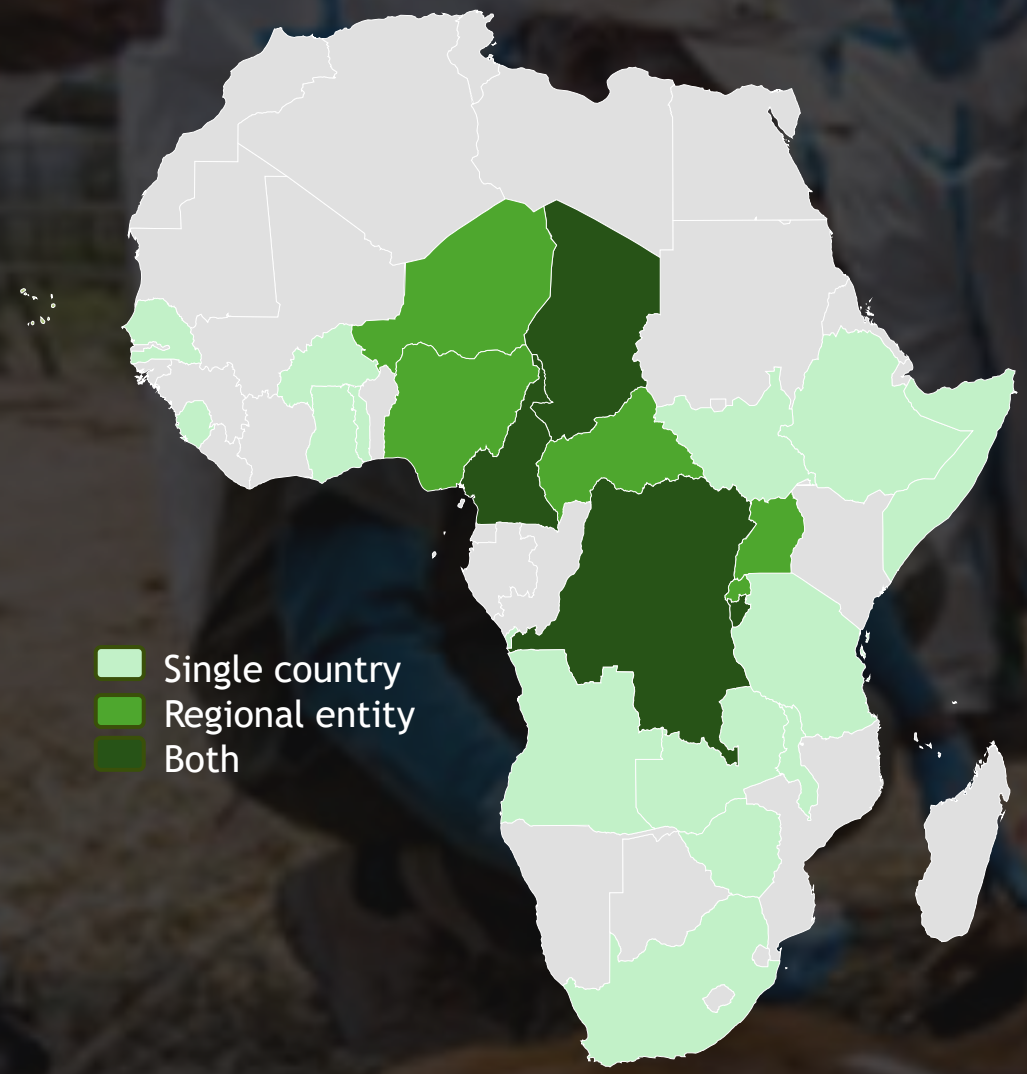
FAO Regional Office for Africa

Pandemic Fund: Focus Areas-Strengthening Public Health and One Health

- Outcomes measured through **JEE, SPAR and PVS** indicators
  - Early warning and surveillance
  - Laboratory systems
  - Workforce development
  - 7-1-7 timeliness improvements
- **Cross-sectoral One Health** governance and coordination
- **Multi-partner** approach
- **AMR** mitigation and stewardship
- **Co-financing and co-investment**

Pandemic Fund: FAO Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa



Angola
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia
Ghana
Malawi
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Tanzania
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe
GVTC (regional)
AU-IBAR (regional)
Africa CDC (regional)

19 single-country projects
3 regional entity projects:

- GVTC
- AU-IBAR
- Africa CDC

Key partners

- AfDB
- UNICEF
- WHO
- World Bank
- WWF
- Gorilla Doctors
- AU-PANVAC
- AU DA-NEPAD

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Pandemic Fund: Strengthening Laboratory Capacity



Quality and biosafety
Implemented rigorous quality management systems, ISO standards and biosafety protocols.
[Burkina Faso] [Tanzania] [Zambia]



Data interoperability
Introduced Laboratory Information Management Systems to connect data ecosystems.
[Ghana] [Sierra Leone]



Expanded diagnostic capacity
Expanded testing methods for AMR, RT-PCR, advanced serology and rapid diagnostic tests.
[Ethiopia] [Zambia] [Sierra Leone] [Burundi]



Provided essential consumables
Secured critical reagents, testing kits and veterinary laboratory consumables.
[Togo] [Ghana] [Ethiopia] [Sierra Leone]



Physical infrastructure
Constructed facilities, deployed MiniLabs and installed modern laboratory equipment.
[DRC] [Rwanda] [Zambia]

Pandemic Fund: Highlights of Enhanced Laboratory Capacity

Zambia: Implemented quality management systems aligned with ISO/IEC 17025 across **4 laboratories** (Chipata, Choma, Mongu and Ndola).

Ethiopia: Conducted **913 diagnostic tests** on milk and serum samples for brucellosis and AMR surveillance at the Semera Laboratory.

Burundi: Analysed **869 samples** from cattle, pigs and poultry.

Rwanda: Delivered **2 MiniLabs** to the National Veterinary Laboratory and trained 10 technicians to detect falsified medicines.

Togo: Upgraded facilities at **2 national laboratories** (INH and LCV) to detect AMR in food.

Sierra Leone: Implemented **antimicrobial susceptibility testing** (AST) on pig, poultry and wastewater samples at the Central Veterinary Laboratory.





Pandemic Fund: Highlights of Workforce Development

Burkina Faso: 20 ISAVET trainees successfully identified causes of 20 disease outbreaks through field investigations.

Ethiopia: Expanded the One Health workforce with **47 graduates** from the frontline ISAVET programme.

Tanzania: Graduated **30 animal health professionals**; their research findings were compiled into a book.

DRC: Trained **60 veterinarians** and animal health professionals.

Ghana: Completed the one-month practical training (ISAVET) for **27 specialists** from Ghana and The Gambia.

Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL): Held a **cross-border community consultation** and established a One Health technical committee, involving 302 participants from DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.





Highlights of Surveillance Capacity Strengthening





Ethiopia: Distributed **3,400 computers** to operationalise the National Digital PHEM system.

Ghana: Finalised **2 EMA-i+ workspaces** covering **261 districts** and produced 24 weekly epidemiology bulletins.

Burkina Faso: Handed over **460 tablets and computers** to improve rapid response to health emergencies.

Tanzania: Installed and operationalised EMA-i+ on devices used by **91 district surveillance officers**.

Togo: Trained **102 veterinarians** in the use of real-time detection tools (EMA-i+ and EMPRES-i+).

Chad: Transferred **140 tablets and 5 laptops** to strengthen the national early warning network.

DRC: Trained **106 veterinarians** in the use of real-time detection tools (EMA-i+ and EMPRES-i+).

Pandemic Fund: Regional Trainings

FAO in collaboration with **Gorilla Doctors** **implemented a** regional training to strengthen **wildlife disease surveillance** and improve the detection and response to emerging zoonotic diseases.

- Location: Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda
- Time: 2 to 6 November 2026
- Participants: **24 participants** from Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Burundi, Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Togo and Ghana.







Pandemic Fund: Regional Trainings

FAO, in collaboration with AU-PANVAC, organized a regional IATA certified training on the transport of infectious substances – 7-11 September in Kigali (Rwanda)

13
staff certified to sign Dangerous Goods Declarations

9
countries

100%
exam pass rate – certificates valid 2 years

Result: the 9 countries can now ship diagnostic samples safely and legally to reference laboratories, so diseases are confirmed faster.

Countries: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Co-funded by the FAO Regular Programme, the Pandemic Fund and STOSAR

Burkina Faso - 1

Before

- Limited capacity to diagnose major zoonoses
- Failure to meet diagnostic turnaround times

Assessment gaps

- Limited capacity of the laboratory system and insufficient staff training in analytical techniques (JEE D1.2, D3.3, SPAR C4.3, PVS II-2)

Action

14

Laboratory technicians trained in diagnosing priority zoonoses



Results/Impact

- 620 samples were analysed for rabies, tuberculosis, brucellosis and HPAI—a **50% increase**
- Turnaround time was shortened **by half**
- **19 personnel** at different stages of certification **in molecular epidemiology of AMR**

Burkina Faso - 2

Before

- Several instances of non-compliance with ISO 15189:2022 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- Insufficient number of accredited laboratories

Assessment gaps

- *Inadequate implementation of laboratory quality assurance procedures (JEE: D1.2 and D3.3; SPAR: C4.3; PVS: II-2)*

Action

15

auditors trained on the ISO 15189:2022 standard

10

auditors trained on the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard



Results/Impacts

- Trained auditors from the National Reference Laboratory helped maintaining ISO 15189:2022 mycobacteriology accreditation and WHO measles accreditation.
- Trained ISO 15189 auditors from the Central Reference Laboratory support the meningitis accreditation process.

Ethiopia

Improving Laboratory Diagnostic Reach

- Equipment, reagents, mentorship training
- AMR sentinel sites increased from **6** to **10**
- Sample throughput rose from 1,887 in 2024 to 5,219 in 2025

Rapid Test Kit Distribution

- Brucellosis testing operational at 17 subnational labs
- Rabies diagnosis operational at 2 subnational labs
- Test kits available for 15 labs

Improved Diagnostic Quality Systems

- **Two** national and 10 subnational laboratories achieved 80–100% accuracy in proficiency testing.
- API-QTC (Animal Products and Inputs Quality Testing Center under the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority) attained ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation for the first time.
- AHI was upgraded to serve as the FAO AMR Reference Centre.



A golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) from Sebeta tested positive for rabies on 11 May 2026.



Togo

- 108 public veterinary officers trained in surveillance, food inspection and veterinary legislation
- 36 laboratory technicians **trained** in modern diagnostic techniques, necropsy, sampling, preservation and transport
- 3 laboratory **technical platforms** strengthened
- 20 laboratory technicians trained in antibiogram techniques







Zambia

- **12 veterinary laboratories equipped** with essential diagnostic equipment, consumables and a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).
- **3 provincial laboratories** supported on the pathway to SADCAS accreditation.
- **27 sites** established within Zambia's national animal health sample referral and courier system, supported by vehicles, motorbikes and referral guidelines.
- **Gender-targeted LMT/ATLASS** and Animal Health Workforce assessments completed.
- **3 HPAI outbreaks** successfully addressed through One Health collaboration.
- **17 participants** completed the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme.
- **133,458 people sensitised** to the judicious use of antibiotics and antibiotic-laden feed and additives.
- **An automated data analysis system** was developed for the Zambia Animal Health Surveillance System (ZAHIS), enabling prompt detection of priority zoonotic diseases.





Ghana

- Strengthened surveillance with **critical reagents and consumables** (ASF, RVF, influenza, anthrax, etc.).
- Supported **proficiency testing at 4 Ghanaian veterinary laboratories** (Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and Pong-Tamale) for AI/ND and rabies, and provided diagnostic kits.
- **Tested LIMS/SILAB integration** with FAO EMA-i+ to improve surveillance interoperability, supported by ARPA in collaboration with the Pandemic Fund project in April 2026.
- Supported training on **IATA regulations** held in Accra, Ghana, in February 2026.
- Supported VSD in assessing **7 target veterinary laboratories** for renovation and developing bills of quantities (BoQs); work is ongoing.







Democratic Republic of the Congo

- **12 priority zoonotic diseases** covered. In DRC, **465 samples** from cattle and pigs were analysed to monitor mpox.
- **Biosafety equipment and inputs**, including PPE, Class II/III microbiological safety cabinets and fire extinguishers, were provided to veterinary laboratories.
- **Equipment and reagents**, including sequencing **reagents and diagnostic equipment** for diseases with epidemic potential, were provided to central veterinary laboratories.
- Construction of **4 veterinary mini-laboratories** is under way in Ituri, Bas-Uele, North Kivu and Sankuru to analyse animal and wildlife samples.







GVL Regional Entity Project (Uganda, Rwanda, DRC) - 1

- Approximately **4,000 gorilla census samples**
- Analysis of **new respiratory disease screening panels** for non-human primates and related training are ongoing with regional laboratory partners.
- Biosafety and biosecurity SOPs covering best practices and PPE were updated to prevent Ebola, anthrax, mpox and other priority diseases. Hygiene kits—including handwashing stations, infrared thermometers, disinfectants, liquid soap and spray pumps—were installed at **29 patrol posts** in Virunga National Park.







GVL Regional Entity Project (Uganda, Rwanda, DRC) - 2

- **Anthrax surveillance, sampling and laboratory testing:** In identified hotspot areas, **10** hippopotamus samples were collected; **four** tested positive for anthrax. Carcasses of two elephants, one antelope and one buffalo tested negative.
- Community awareness and health education in Virunga National Park were strengthened by training **525 eco-guards across 29 patrol posts** in infection prevention and control (IPC). Training included disease prevention, proper donning and doffing of PPE, and the safe disposal of carcasses and infectious waste.
- **18 project vehicles**—eight in Uganda, seven in Rwanda and three in DRC—were handed over to the delivery partners (GVTC, WWF and Gorilla Doctors).









Call to Action

- Support the **Global Partnership Programme on Transboundary Animal Diseases (GPP-TAD)** as a country-led programme to scale up PF project outcomes.
- Adopt a **multisectoral One Health approach** that addresses the whole system rather than isolated components.
- Mobilise more resources through **domestic investment, private capital and partnerships** to strengthen animal and plant health systems.
- Explore establishing a **national permanent emergency fund** to strengthen capacity for rapid responses to disease and pest outbreaks.
- Continue to **drive innovation** and scale up good practices through knowledge sharing, stronger communication and coordination.



GF-TADs

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African Union

Thank you

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