

**Programme Evaluation Series**

# **Evaluation of FAO/USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Programme – Phase II (EPT2)**

**Follow-up report**

Evaluation of FAO/USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Programme – Phase II (EPT2) – Follow-up report

Date 09/2022

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		Actions to be taken and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken	MAR Score	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b> As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, the world is still unprepared for a pandemic and threats such as avian influenza and MER-CoV remain. Therefore, the Evaluation Team highly recommends that EPT2 be continued and expanded.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>It is fully agreed that for a better contribution to the prevention of the emerging pandemic threats, the programme coverage needs to be expanded through collaboration with a broader range of resource partners; with an increased geographical scope by including additional high risk and food insecure countries; and in depth of the point to stop the spill-over of pandemic potential pathogens at the animal-human interface.</p> <p>Currently, ECTAD is stating the implementation next phase activities relevant to the prevention of emerging pandemic threats programme funded by USAID and other financial partners as explained below.</p> <p>1.1 Building on the legacy of EPT2 and GHSA programmes, USAID has expressed the intention to further supporting FAO’s work as part of their upcoming “Global Health Security Programme” (GHSP) covering period 2021-2024.</p> <p>Under the GHSP, it is planned to study spillover risks associated with wildlife trade and encroachment in close collaboration with Forestry Division. Future-focused approach such as foresight will be applied to identify the target areas with high risks due to consumption demands, trade, impacts of government policies to ecosystem such</p>	<p>FAO Management continues to advocate the importance of animal health work in Pandemic prevention, especially, in relation to animal health work and in particular, zoonotic diseases under a one health umbrella. This has contributed to the signing of a new USD 250 million Agreement over the next five years with USAID, signed in October 2022, aimed at supporting the Global Health Security (GHS). The new GHS programme builds on the results of the EPT-2/GHSA programmes <b>(1.1)</b>.</p> <p>ECTAD has embarked on several disease risk characterization efforts as well as building national capacity of countries to identify and respond/mitigate to risks globally for multiple diseases in the form of guidelines, tools and training programmes. Examples include the Rift Valley Fever Decision Support tool (RVF-DST), RVF Action Framework guideline, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) spill-over and spread modelling and, contributions to a policy brief by the Forestry division on “How managing resource sectors can contribute to reducing emerging infectious diseases – the example of forest ecosystems” (<a href="#">Available here</a>). Contributions to a chapter-driver 16 “Epidemics and degradation of ecosystems” of the FAO FOFA-DTT corporate report, where a foresight approach was applied for scenario analysis <b>(1.1)</b>.</p> <p>An interdivisional workshop entitled “Technical Expert Meeting on Reducing Zoonotic Disease Risks through Healthy Ecosystems” was organized with Ecohealth Alliance and the Forestry division, with the participation of experts from FAO, Ecohealth Alliance, WHO, CITES, TRAFFIC, CSIRO, WCS, UNEP <b>(1.1)</b>.</p> <p>As part of the planning process, ECTAD countries have included workforce situational assessments and workforce development strategies and planning together with national authorities in their annual workplans. They have also included at least one ISAVET training for national animal health workers per year <b>(1.1)</b>.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 has been implemented thanks to the signature of a 5-year Grant Agreement for implementation of GHS Program which builds on the EPT2 work and extend to other countries/regions. In addition, new ideas/proposals have been presented and being finalized with other donors (in particular DTRA).</p> <p>As the program is going through a transition period, much of the planned activities and their eventual impact have yet to be fully implemented and achieved <b>(1.1)</b>.</p> <p>Knowledge resources and analytical mappings developed, such as the guidance and literature on how to involve natural resource sectors in reducing emerging Infectious diseases will address knowledge gaps <b>(1.1)</b>.</p> <p>Through the risk mapping and GIS training and the RVF DST efforts, the program has contributed to improved capacity in disease and risk factor data visualization and mapping, environmental monitoring and risk analysis in WCA and supported RVF preparedness and as well as facilitated the preparation/publication of RVF alert messages, real-time data sharing, consultation among experts and risk interpretation and contributed to</p>

		<p>as construction of dams, high-speed train, etc. Policy, governance and capacity gaps in prevention, preparedness and response to future pandemics will also be assessed in such high risks areas and used as the basis to design targeted workforce and institutional capacity development programme with engagement of key stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>1.2 The coverage for low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) will be expanded with new ECTAD teams to be established in Sudan upon request of the government and of regional organizations and with SFERA funding support and in the Niger, Nigeria and Mozambique as part of the USAID GHSP support.</p> <p>1.3 The recent advance of FAO in IT and data interoperability will enable the development of decision support tools to timely inform decision makers and guide early response in animal health. In particular, the Hand-in-Hand (HiH) geospatial platform, brings together over 20 FAO units across multiple domains, from animal health to trade and markets, integrating data from across FAO on soil, land, water, climate, livestock production and health, fisheries, crops, forestry, trade, social and economics, etc. Data has also been sourced from FAO partners and public data providers across the UN and NGOs, private sector and space agencies. The HiH platform facilitates the data gap analysis and development of decision support tools to enhance early response. An example is the RVF Decision Support Tool, which is fully integrated in the</p>	<p>In expanding the coverage for LMICs<sup>1</sup>, an international staff was fielded in Sudan for 11 months (Feb 2021 to Jan 2022) with SFERA<sup>2</sup> resources. Fully fledged ECTAD teams have been established in Mozambique, the Niger and Nigeria. In addition, the newly introduced decentralized investments mechanism of USAID has been accompanied by an expansion of FAO work in new countries and regions under the GHS programme. Specifically, the new agreement is currently supporting three new regions: LAC <sup>3</sup>(Peru and Guatemala); Eastern Europe (Ukraine) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan). In addition, Zambia (Africa) and the Philippines (Asia). USAID missions worldwide are showing interest in working with FAO and discussions are ongoing to include additional countries (1.2).</p> <p>The Conceptual Framework for Human-Wildlife-Livestock interface mapping and modelling was prepared to develop an early warning support tool based on the Rift Valley Fever Decision Support tool (RVF-DST). The RVF-DST has been further developed and refined to account for stakeholder feedback. The tool has been rolled out at regional (East Africa) and national level (Kenya and Tanzania) with virtual and in person trainings and workshops. Training packages materials have been prepared, including demos, video tutorials, exercise instructions, theoretical presentations and workflows for users using a OH approach. A RVF Action Framework guideline document was published in April 2022. Plans for scale-up up to non-GHSP countries (Saudi Arabia) has been prepared (1.3).</p> <p>ECTAD Asia developed an event-based surveillance system tracking animal disease rumours from open sources (e.g., media, social media, government websites) using the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Epidemic Intelligence from Open Source (EIOS) platform. An event database was created and a dashboard to visualise disease events, including confidential information from countries, was designed (1.3).</p> <p>FAO supported four field studies on SARS-CoV-2 in animals, three studies were virological and/or serological surveys to assess the exposure of pets (Egypt) and farm animals (UAE and OMA) to SARS-CoV-2, while one study in Indonesia was about epidemiological investigation of SARS-CoV-2 infection in captive felines at a zoo (1.4).</p> <p>The Virtual Inception Meeting on Strengthening COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response in Animal Health Sector in Asia (TCP/RAS/3801(E)) was organized by ECTAD on 15-17 July</p>	<p>better collaboration among stakeholders and regional partners, such as IGAD(1.1 and 1.3).</p> <p>Animal health services at country and regional levels have improved capacities to detect SARS-CoV-2 and are prepared for adequate response under the One Health approach (1.4).</p> <p>Multisectoral networks at country and regional levels are established or strengthened to coordinate efforts and share information related to COVID-19 at the animal-human interface (1.4).</p> <p>Understanding of the role of animals in the COVID-19 and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and livelihoods related to livestock is improved (1.4).</p> <p>Collaboration with academia is strengthened via SEAOHUN through capacity development of One Health leaders in development of new research and training on zoonoses and AMR in Southeast Asia (1.5).</p> <p>The roadmap and development plan for a surveillance and information sharing system were successfully developed in Indonesia. A total of 17 prioritized activities will be implemented over one to three years to improve the coordinated zoonotic disease surveillance capacity in Indonesia.</p> <p>Zoonotic diseases of greatest national concern for Indonesia and Thailand were prioritized by the human, animal and environmental health sectors under the close collaboration and facilitation</p>
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		<p>HiH geospatial platform. This tool is a proof of concept and provides timely information on RVF risk periods and risk areas to support decision-making and enhance early warning and early action.</p> <p>1.4 During the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19, funds have been mobilized through the Emergency TCP to conduct field studies on COVID-19 in animals and work with WHO on risks of COVID-19 along supply chains in close collaboration with Food Safety Division and CJW. EMC-AH has activated the Incident Coordination Group for various animal health emergencies, including COVID-19. The above will continue as integral part of ECTAD and EMC-AH future work.</p> <p>1.5 Increased awareness to further enable FAO with its partners and all actors along the food supply chain to ensure that they follow appropriate measures to reduce exposure and prevent zoonotic diseases transmission, including COVID-19. In close coordination with national</p>	<p>2020. The National Focal Points from participating countries were nominated and a regional coordination and information sharing network was activated. Implementation of activities within target countries were coordinated (1.4).</p> <p>A survey on impacts of COVID-19 on the livestock sector, food security and livelihoods in Asia was conducted by ECTAD in November 2021. A total of 12 out of 19 invited countries participated in the survey. Recommended actions for regional and country levels were generated based on the survey results. The Guideline on Safe Handling of Companion Animals in Contact with COVID-19 Human Cases was developed by ECTAD (1.4).</p> <p>Under the TCP/RAS/3801(E) project, surveillance of coronaviruses in bats was conducted to assess the feasibility and verify the usability of environmental air sampling versus individual bat samples in an in-field setting for coronaviruses and other viruses with zoonotic potential in multiple bat species at the human-animal interface in Cambodia (1.4).</p> <p>To increase awareness, a dedicated and centralized ECTAD web page is being developed. The site will target government officials, veterinarians, resource partners and other key actors. The website not only will advocate for the ECTAD work but will also educate and raise awareness for diseases prevention, detection and response (1.5).</p> <p>In Nepal, the inception meeting under TCP/RAS/3801(E) was held with animal, human and wildlife sectors on 1 October 2021. Five sub-committees were established to carry out the activities of COVID-19 under TCP/RAS/3801(E). Laboratory capacity and needs on capacity building were assessed. A guideline for case</p>		<p>between ECTAD and the US CDC (1.5).</p> <p>One Health NBW Roadmaps in Mongolia, Thailand and the Philippines were developed. The NBW Roadmap is a harmonized, actionable and realistic joint roadmap of activities that the country develops and will implement to improve the multisectoral collaboration based on diagnosis of current strengths and weaknesses in the coordination between animal and human health services for 15 technical areas that are key for the prevention, detection and response to health events at the human-animal interface (1.5).</p> <p>Participants during the cross-border meeting with Gangetic countries agreed to develop a database of quarantine officers in border provinces to facilitate communication, to continue the sharing of information on TADs and selected prioritized topics for the next cross-border meeting. The meeting issued a recommendation</p>

<sup>1</sup> LMICs: low- and middle-income countries

<sup>2</sup> SFERA: Special Funds for Emergency and Rehabilitation

<sup>3</sup> LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean

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		<p>authorities and WHO and remaining consistent with UN system messaging, raise awareness about health regulations, including rights, roles and responsibilities of workers raising of actors along the food supply chain.</p>	<p>management of SARS-CoV-2 in animals and SOP for biosafety and biosecurity in laboratory handling were developed. Sample collection under risk-based surveillance is currently ongoing in veterinary hospitals and private veterinary clinics (1.4).</p> <p>In Indonesia, the inception meeting was organized with the Department of Animal Health to introduce the project activities under TCP/RAS/3801(E) on 16 February 2021. Activities conducted under the regional project included finalization of the guideline, joint risk assessment, risk-based surveillance in animal-human-wildlife interface, improving laboratory diagnostic capacity, developing risk communication materials and biosafety for animal health workers (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD collaborated with Southeast Asia One Health University (SEAOHUN) and provided small grants for innovative projects in One Health in Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam during 2021-2022. ECTAD in Lao PDR hosted a SEAOHUN fellow in June-November 2021 and Cambodia is currently hosting a SEAOHUN fellow (August-October 2022). ECTAD provided support in SEAOHUN International Conference 2022 which is a live, knowledge-sharing event for current and aspiring One Health practitioners, educators and researchers, under the theme of 'Catalyzing One Health Citizens of the Future', on 5-7 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 300 delegates from 34 countries attended the conference. ECTAD provided support in reviewing scientific abstracts submitted to the conference, providing remarks in the opening ceremony and moderating the One Health education and AMR sessions (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD facilitated the operationalization of One Health using Tripartite and other One Health tools, including Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool (SIS OT) in Indonesia during October 2021; One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization (OHZDP) in Indonesia during November 2021 and in Thailand during May 2022; and FAO's Joint Outbreak Investigation (JOIN)</p>		<p>for SAARC member states to establish a collaboration on disease information sharing and cross-border surveillance (1.5).</p> <p>Experts contributing to the avian influenza expert consultation in December 2021 identified challenges to efficient early warning mechanisms at regional and global level including: i) policies limiting timely and open data sharing; ii) stigmatization following reporting of disease events (e.g., impact on tourism, trade); and iii) prioritizing the sharing of viral sequence information in peer-reviewed publications leading to a delay in public data sharing (1.5).</p> <p>The ECTAD early warning and rumour tracking system provides FAO and countries in with weekly summaries of disease rumours that are shared internally to improve regional awareness on potential disease threats and increase early warning/early response actions by ECTAD country teams in Asia (1.5).</p> <p>Through annual laboratory assessments conducted using the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT), it was measured that most of the labs in Africa were stable or improved their BS/BS (1.5).</p>

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			<p>tool in Indonesia during August 2021 and in Thailand during October 2022(1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD supported the implementation of International Health Regulations–Performance of Veterinary Services (IHR-PVS) National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) as part of the Tripartite in Mongolia, Thailand and the Philippines during 2022. ECTAD is involved in the virtual meetings for NBW Community of Practice by providing updates and experiences (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD provided consultation on establishment of wildlife surveillance and diagnostic laboratory and capacity development in Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD advocated importance of animal health contribution in One Health collaboration in the events organized by public health sectors at the regional and country levels, including ASEAN, WHO and other regional meetings (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD organized the second cross-border consultation meeting for Gangetic Plain countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) on 28 October 2021 (in a virtual format). The meeting allowed countries to learn about existing cross-border collaborations, to share disease updates on priority TADs including avian influenza and to discuss future collaborations on cross-border value chains and surveillance to improve pandemic preparedness. The meeting was attended by 29 representatives from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Member States, SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Agriculture Centre, USAID and FAO (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD organized a regional expert consultation on non-avian zoonotic influenzas in Asia during January-February 2021. The meeting was divided into several sessions and gathered over 30 participants in the field of human and animal health. The consultation focused on the gaps and needs related to expanding</p>		

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			<p>beyond avian to better understand and prepare for zoonotic influenzas in interface species (1.5).</p> <p>ECTAD organized a regional consultation on avian influenza surveillance and early warning in Asia, between 30 November and 3 December 2021. The meeting brought together 44 experts in the field of avian influenza and identified gaps and ways forward for improved early warning and information sharing at national, regional and global levels (1.5). FAO ECTAD developed and published "<a href="#">Guiding principles for the design of avian influenza active surveillance in Asia</a>" in September 2022 to provide countries with guidance on implementing effective AI active surveillance programmes for early warning purposes. The content of the guidelines was also presented to the veterinary services of Indonesia in December 2022 and Cambodia in August 2022 during the countries' National Avian Influenza Surveillance Review Workshops (1.5).</p> <p>FAO ECTAD continues to organize quarterly ECTAD coordination calls between global, regional and country levels to share progresses, lessons learned and successes around implementation of surveillance activities for zoonotic avian influenzas (1.5).</p> <p>Within the context of laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity (BS/BS), efforts have also continued to ensure appropriate measures are implemented in laboratories to reduce the exposure of laboratory personnel, the public, agriculture and the environment to potentially infectious agents and other biological hazards. In Africa, the Eastern Africa and West and Central Africa BS/BS regional programs implemented since 2017 have been supported through annual regional meetings, to agree on regional BS/BS roadmaps, thereafter, implemented at country level through national BS/BS roadmaps (1.5).</p>		

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<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b> ECTAD must maintain the network of valuable expertise it used to implement the EPT2 to ensure that the necessary technical support remains available and that countries, especially the most vulnerable, develop and sustain the enduring capabilities they need to effectively prevent, detect and respond early to disease threats before they become regional or global crises.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>It is agreed that the ECTAD platform consisting of multidisciplinary teams at all levels - country, region and global - needs to be sustained until the member countries' investments are in place.</p> <p>In addition, the network of expertise, workforce and capacities that have been developed through the ECTAD work at the country and regional levels, cannot be sustained without countries' policies and commitments.</p> <p>ECTAD has already initiated and carried out various efforts with the aim to sustain such capacities and expertise with certain positive results observed as of to date.</p> <p>2.1 To increase member countries' investments for sustaining the capacities developed through the EPT2 programme, the advocacy strategy should be strengthened based on the evidence of economic and broader returns on such investments and in view of meeting countries commitments to the SDGs. The following can be flagged as potential examples:</p> <p>Capacities on detection and response to emerging and priority zoonotic diseases developed through ECTAD programme in various countries, have been clearly applied to the various outbreaks – such as the epidemic of</p>	<p>ECTAD is supporting Veterinary Services with the development and economic evaluation of investment plans. In Bangladesh, the initial consultations to develop an investment plan to transform the Veterinary Services has been organized and the FAO-ILRI-CIRAD Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit is being calibrated to analyse the impact of such plan and support internal resource mobilization (2.1).</p> <p>As previously mentioned above, additional countries are being included in the GHS programme (2.2).</p> <p>ECTAD has continued supporting Vet Lab Capacities in all ECTAD counties for reliable and timely detection of emerging and priority zoonotic diseases. Support was provided to national public health authorities to detect COVID-19 as several veterinary laboratories were able to handle and safely test human samples. A One Health module of the LIMS SILABFA has also been implemented in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya to assist, when needed, in handling of these samples (2.2).</p> <p>EA and WCA Regional Laboratory Networks annual meetings were organized to discuss countries' situation and regional priorities and allow for better coordination across countries for common issues identified (2.2).</p> <p>A network of WCA GIS/risk mapping trainees has been established and a mailbox created to enhance information sharing (2.2).</p> <p>Through the MERS-CoV project, diagnostic capacity, especially molecular detection of the pathogen, continues to be built in the national laboratories. Troubleshooting, training, sharing of protocols, support of reference labs and proficiency testing are all actions taken towards this goal.</p> <p>The AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Southeast Asia, established in 2017 and for South Asia, established in 2019, continued.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>A sustainable pool of experts on AMR continues to be accessible for requesting countries in the region, providing support as needed (2.2).</p> <p>Ghana has shown to be a success story for the SILAB FA One Health Module: in August 2020, FAO ECTAD in Ghana installed the application with a 'One Health module' at the Accra Veterinary Laboratory (AVL) to assist the laboratory with the management of COVID-19 samples (including human samples), following international standards. As a result, "the use of SILAB-FA has helped the AVL to share information electronically and this has facilitated the traceability of COVID-19 samples from the field to the laboratory responsible for performing the diagnosis." (2.2)</p> <p>The Regional Animal Health Networks meetings (RAHN) were organized, in collaboration with FAO ECTAD, AU-IBAR, WOAHA, USAD-APHIS and others) every year for WCA RESOLAB and RESEPI networks, coordination workshops on animal health activities in the region (2.2).</p> <p>Recommendations of the last meetings included for countries to work on the 1) private sector engagement, 2) Maintenance and calibration of lab equipment, 3)</p>



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		<p>African Swine Fever and in support of the national public health authorities to detect and response to COVID-19. In addition, the regional laboratory and epidemiology networking activities allow the expertise among the countries under the certain setting of regional economic communities to share information, experience and facilitate the coordination and collaboration in disease prevention and control.</p> <p>2.2. To further strengthen and sustain the capacities built till now and its network of expertise, a systematic and coordinated implementation of related activities through various animal health projects/programmes at global, regional and country level, will be applied following the One Health capacity development approach in addition to the geographic expansion and scope of ECTAD's work beyond the transboundary zoonotic diseases.</p> <p>2.3 Additional efforts will be made to expand funding base with potential financial partners to different countries and regions including other USA agencies (BHA, DTRA), China, Republic of Korea, Australia, UK and EU. . Efforts will be made to target other vulnerable countries under the USAID GSHP support.</p> <p>2.4 ECTAD is constantly maintaining and updating a multi-disciplinary</p>	<p>The Regional Community of ATCLASS assessors continues to this day and has been a source of strong technical support for the implementation of ATCLASS missions in Asia region (2.2).</p> <p>ECTAD continues to implement regional laboratory programs for laboratory quality assurance (incl. PT testing), biosafety/biosecurity and bioinformatics in Asia (2.2).</p> <p>ECTAD continues to support laboratory networks in SAARC and ASEAN through the support to the ASEAN and SAARC Laboratory Directors Forums and Laboratory Technical Advisory Groups (Lab-TAGs) (2.2).</p> <p>ECTAD started to pilot the SILAB LIMS system in Cambodia and Bangladesh (2.2).</p> <p>United States agencies (BHA, DTRA), China, the Republic of Korea, Australia and the UK are contributing to the ECTAD programme. FAO is discussing with DTRA the phase 2 of the ongoing projects. The Fleming Fund is focusing on AMR work at global and at country level, where a third phase project implementation has been recently signed. Efforts continue to include other donors (2.3).</p> <p>ECTAD is constantly maintaining and updating a multi-disciplinary roster of experts and managers through vacancy announcements and interviews. A new round of vacancy announcements in three languages will be launched during the last quarter of 2022 (2.4).</p> <p>ECTAD continues to support the implementation of ISAVET across Africa, with plans to expand to new regions as per the proposed ECTAD expansion as well as to provide training modules via the FAO VLCs (2.5).</p> <p>The Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPVs) across Asia continues to implement its curriculum with support from ECTAD; this includes the Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (R-FETPV), supported in collaboration with Thailand's Department of</p>		<p>revision of TORs of regional support labs (2.2)</p> <p>Diagnostic capacity to detect MERS-CoV has increased in project countries (2.2).</p> <p>The established network of expertise allowed ECTAD to leverage the achievement if EPT2 programme for the design of GHS Program and projects (2.4).</p> <p>ISAVET implementation has moved from 14 countries in 2018 to 17 countries implementing ISAVET. Ongoing collaboration with regional partners as well as other donors in the region has resulted in financial support for national implementation in several countries. Increased advocacy with current donor (i.e., USAID) has resulted in strong commitment to sustain and expand the programme to new countries not only in Africa but also Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe (2.5).</p> <p>FETPVs across Asia have expanded their collaboration in jointly conducting many meetings and workshops and over a hundred veterinarians have been enrolled in the programs. The trained veterinarians successfully provided technical expertise to tackle the new emerging diseases in the region</p>

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		<p>roster of experts of various nationalities, with a broad range of technical, managerial and language skills and with worldwide field experience to fulfill the requirements of the programme and to ensure immediate response to member countries requests.</p> <p>2.5 Through its GHSA programme ECTAD will continue to build and strengthen the workforce capacity at country level through In Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) in Asia and Africa.</p>	<p>Livestock Development (DLD). Value chain and economic analysis have been integrated in the R-FETPV curriculum (2.5).</p> <p>The operationalization of the R-FETPV was strengthened through the development of a strategic plan as well as expanding of the programme curriculum to include other sectors (2.5).</p>		<p>such as ASF, LSD and AHS and the re-emerging diseases such as HPAI and FMD (2.5).</p> <p>The R-FETPV has been recognized as a member of the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) and the programme has provided training to Wildlife, Aquatic animal, Fishery and Private sectors (2.5).</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b></p> <p>FAO needs to fully utilize its convening power, partnerships, trusted status and experience of emerging pandemic threats to engage political and business leaders on the need to consolidate and scale up EPT2-induced gains to improve pandemic preparedness. To reinforce progress, FAO must continue to support a cohesive EPT2 package of objectives and broaden its scope to ensure the sustainability of outcomes in those countries ready to invest.</p>	Accepted	<p>ECTAD has recognized the importance of private sector engagement as one of the contributing factors to sustainability of the prevention of emerging pandemic threat and will make the best efforts to fill the gaps.</p> <p>The current efforts which will be continued and not limited to, can be described as follows:</p> <p>3.1 Efforts have been ongoing to strengthen public and private partner engagement. Within FAO, ECTAD Management will liaise with the relevant units for a better institutional clarity and framework at the FAO corporate level that facilitates a conducive environment for engagement with private sector partners as well between private and public sector partners.</p>	<p>At a global level, efforts have been initiated to develop business models for sustainable laboratories include advocacy for laboratories to collaborate with private sector. Moreover, the Global Laboratory Leadership Program (GLLP) training curriculum and harmonized approach to roll out of GLLP at country level in 22 countries has been developed in collaboration with multiple partners. This will assist countries in building strong laboratory leaders to develop strategic sustainable laboratory strategies, including approaches for sustaining laboratory activities through collaboration with private sector thus generating new Lab incomes contributing to building stable national laboratory systems (3.1).</p> <p>In Asia, a roadmap for strengthening private sector engagement was developed. Based on subsequent recommendations a Private Sector Engagement Coordinator was recruited (September 2021 – July 2022) to prioritize engagement opportunities at the country and regional levels, initiate the dialogue with some private sector stakeholders and develop a training programme on private sector engagement for FAO staff (3.1).</p> <p>ECTAD via the ISAVET and FETPV programmes have supported/participated in regional activities to raise the awareness</p>	Advancing	<p>GLLP training curriculum material developed: 43 modules (each module composed of an instructor guide, participant guide) and supporting documents (mentorship guide, implementation guide, glossary, communication materials, etc.). Since 2021, GLLP is piloted in 22 countries, including ECTAD countries Burkina Faso, DRC, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia (3.1).</p> <p>Priorities at the country level for private sector partners were identified and, in some countries, consultations with the private sector were initiated (3.1).</p> <p>Identification of the ISAVET programme by AUIBAR and ECOWAS as a key workforce</p>

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<p>This will require an emphasis on advocacy and high-level policy and, in light of COVID-19, strengthening particular components of the programme, such as the identification and surveillance of livestock and wildlife hotspots to reduce the risk of outbreaks and to ensure early detection and response to any that occur.</p>		<p>3.2 ECTAD has been striving for partnership opportunities with new partners who are best placed to assist in ensuring sustainability of outcomes in those countries ready to invest in pandemic preparedness. In addition to the Africa example given in the report, countries and the sub-regions in Asia are paying more attention and there are various ongoing initiatives that are highly relevant to ECTAD's work. For example, the ongoing establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Animal Health and Zoonoses, the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), the SAARC Regional Support Unit (RSU) are the regional platforms that aim to leverage national resource utilization as well as attract external financial resources.</p> <p>3.3 Policy advocacy, both at country and regional levels, have been included in the ongoing programmes of USAID and other resource partners. While ECTAD, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, has developed "the transition plan" for various ongoing capacity building programmes, it should be noted that institutional strengthening and sustainability requires much longer-term investments and strategies.</p>	<p>amongst regional stakeholders of the programme and its ongoing impacts on skills and knowledge acquisition and utilization at national level. Such activities include regional presentations/discussions at regional economic communities' meetings, annual regional ISAVET implementation webinars to discuss progress and challenges (3.2).</p> <p>Partnerships with IGAD and ECOWAS have been strengthened to prepare and issue joint RVF alert messages at EA regional level; and continue building capacity in disease risk mapping/GIS in WCA countries, respectively (3.2).</p> <p>The following Animal Health Networks of the SAARC Member States are established and functional, supported by ECTAD (3.2):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SAARC CVOs Forum: the endorsement and implementation vehicle for animal health strategies in South Asia- the SAARC CVOs Forum is the highest-level technical forum addressing livestock and animal health issues in South Asia and was formed in June 2008 by agreement of the eight Member States. With the support and coordination of the FAO ECTAD and the SAARC, it is now being regarded as the endorsement and implementation vehicle for animal health related strategies in the sub-region through deliberation and discussion among country delegates at the regional meetings/workshops.</li> <li>ii. SAARC Epidemiology Network (EpiNet) Forum – The forum is established with a focal person and alternative member from each Member State of SAARC.</li> <li>iii. SAARC Laboratory Directors' Forum (SLDF) – The forum is established with Head/Director of national veterinary Laboratory from each member states of SAARC.</li> <li>iv. Cross-border Consultation meetings among the Gangetic Plain Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) – These countries are part of the same ecosystem and epizones with similar disease status and similar livestock production systems. The various pathogens circulating in these</li> </ol>		<p>development option for scaling up epidemiology training in the region. Funding has been made available to support some ECTAD countries in ISAVET implementation via the World Bank REDISSE project as well as funding support for non-ECTAD countries in Africa (3.2).</p> <p>The Veterinary Council of Thailand and various veterinary faculties have identified the R-FETPV as a potential partner in developing field epidemiology specialties under the College of Veterinary Specialties of Thailand. Also, the R-FETPV has received financial support from USCDC for straightening epidemiology workforce development in Thailand (3.2).</p> <p>The re-establishment of ASEAN RSU has expedited the process for operationalization of ACCAHZ. Further, the ASEAN RSU also has facilitated and reduced the bureaucracy of ASEAN in responding to animal health related issues and improving the collaboration and communication among ASEAN countries (3.2).</p> <p>The RVF-DST efforts have increased awareness and interest for the DST tool from GHSP and non-GHSP countries, including Saudi Arabia to scale up the tool to other countries and diseases (e.g., Avian influenza)</p>

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		<p>3.4 ECTAD is already supporting application of JEE and PVS, as well as implementation of recommendations thereof. Efforts are also on-going to map out JEE indicators with that of ECTAD M&amp;E framework. The other tools developed by ECTAD also support advancement of countries capacity toward JEE (IHR) and PVS, such as LMT, EMT and SET. These tools are for more targeted capacity building of epidemiological, surveillance and diagnostic capacities.</p> <p>3.5 ECTAD will establish and strengthen the links with Knowledge Management, MEAL and Strategic Positioning teams within OER to gather, develop and make efficient use of evidence for advocacy using FAO’s methodology for damage and loss assessment in agriculture. New skill sets will be acquired to support advocacy and strategic positioning of ECTAD.</p> <p>3.6 Risk Monitoring and Early Action Plans (REAP) to be incorporated as part of the programmatic approach to pandemic threats and emerging infectious diseases linked to resilience building efforts. They provide a Plan of Action of coordinated short-term actions for anticipatory action and/or immediate response to pandemics and existing threats. In this context, the REAP aims to develop a “suite” of</p>	<p>countries for the major TADs including zoonoses, are mostly similar in genetic or antigenic make-up.</p> <p>v. SAARC AMR Technical Advisory Group (AMR TAG), a technical forum from Member States of SAARC and external experts on AMR and representatives from regional Tripartite organizations.</p> <p>Bi-annual FAO/WOAH sub-regional Meeting of GF-TADs for SAARC member states (3.2).</p> <p>ECTAD facilitated the development and implementation of various regional frameworks and strategies, among others ASEAN Regional Laboratory Framework, ASEAN Regional Epidemiology Framework and the ASEAN Regional Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance Communication and Advocacy, which have been endorsed at the AMAF (3.2).</p> <p>ECTAD continually engages with ASEAN and provides support to strengthening animal health and One Health systems through the following (3.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ECTAD has continued partnerships and provided technical inputs for the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group in Livestock (ASWGL)</li> <li>ii. ECTAD re-established the ASEAN Regional Support Unit that continues to provide support for the establishment and operationalization of ACCAHZ, which was recognized by the ASEAN Minister for Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF).</li> <li>iii. Efforts have been continued to support the establishment of ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), an initiative from ASEAN health sector which increases the collaboration across sectors. ECTAD was invited to provide support for its launching in 2022.</li> <li>iv. ECTAD facilitated the establishment and supported the activities of ASEAN technical bodies to improve pandemic preparedness (3.1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN Laboratory Directors Forum (ALDF)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>(3.3).The laboratory Assessment tools (LMTs and ATLASS) allowed for regular assessments of laboratories capacities, prioritization of recommendation and of capacity building activities, thus planning activities based on strengths and gaps measured (3.4).</p> <p>The mapping of the indicators allowed for describing EPT2/GHSA results along with the analysis of national JEE scores and predicted JEE scores (3.4).</p>

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		<p>preparedness and response options at the country level. The REAP provides a framework to support countries in the identification and implementation of prevention and response investments, perspective through a food chain crisis lens. Strategies for the REAP approach will not only provide evidence-based information but will also be used to support advocacy and resource mobilization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN Veterinary Epidemiology Groups (AVEG)</li> <li>• ASEAN Communication Group on Livestock (ACGL)</li> <li>• Avian Influenza Group of ASEAN (AIGA)</li> </ul> <p>The global Veterinary Laboratory Policy (VLP) had been developed to provide countries with a “A coherent framework of decisions shaping the status, the mission and the goals of the veterinary laboratories (at national and regional level) and oriented towards the long-term delivery and sustainability of the laboratory service and its relationship with veterinary and other stakeholders”(3.2).</p> <p>ECTAD has expanded its work on policy in both, Africa and Asia. Reviews of the legislative framework for the adoption of good practices along the livestock value chain have been conducted and interventions to address the gaps on policy implementation are under design using a participatory approach. Through this initiative, ECTAD expects to promote an inclusive policy dialogue, involving central and local levels of the government, as well as the private sector. (3.3)</p> <p>Pilot initiatives to support policy implementation and advocacy are ongoing in 4 African countries and 2 Asian countries. These initiatives are characterized by a strong ownership by local stakeholders since they are involved in the design of the interventions, which should contribute to the empowerment of local institutions and sustainability of activities (3.3).</p> <p>ECTAD has published a RVF DST information sheet, presentations and live demonstration at several international workshop, symposium and conference events. (3.3).</p> <p>The continued development of the LMT tools (LMT Core, LMT safety, LMT Biothreat, LMT AMR and LMT bacteriology- and FAO-ATLASS) allowed for FAO to provide fit for purpose standardized tool that allows countries to complete a semi-quantitative assessment of laboratory functionality and capacities. The next developments will include digitalization of tools to allow for easier use by countries, as well as increase data use and data sharing,</p>		

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			<p>including with other tools, such as the WOAHA Laboratory PVS and The WHO JEE (3.4).</p> <p>Efforts have also continued the development of SET through SET 2.0 and SET PIP. Development of new tools, i.e., Joint Outbreak Investigation Tool (JOIN) and One Health Surveillance Planning and Operation Tool (OH SPOT) is ongoing (3.4).</p> <p>ECTAD M&amp;E indicators developed for the transition period between the EPT2 and the GHS program have been mapped to JEE indicators. Recently a new version of the JEE was published the exercise will need to be repeated as part of the ongoing MEL design efforts for the GHS program (3.4).</p> <p>The relevant recommendations of the OED EPT2 evaluation on MEAL/MEL were used potential entry points for strengthen the links with Knowledge Management, MEAL and Strategic Positioning teams within OER (3.5).</p> <p>As an initial step, the work done under the ECTAD MEL and OER MEAL were presented during a meeting with both teams. It was agreed that further meetings will be conducted on specific topics. In particular, the ECTAD MEL team will be connected to the Cash Management Info workgroup to familiarize on the collaboration taking place with CSI. Additional discussions are needed to understand the programmatic approach and how ECTAD MEL can contribute to it (3.5).</p> <p>The ECTAD MEL and MEAL teams have also developed an informal working relationship and frequently consults on relevant matters. The Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) tool has been briefly discussed; however, its application is yet to be defined for ECTAD (3.5).</p>		



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<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b> Future EPT2 work requires a robust gender strategy and a clearly articulated approach to engaging with minority groups.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	<p>ECTAD will ensure that a robust gender strategy is developed and systematically implemented throughout its programmes in alignment with the FAO corporate’s policy as well as resource partners’ requirement.</p> <p>4.1 ECTAD plans to acquire in-house skill set and design a programme level strategy for gender integration and country level Gender Action Plans.</p> <p>4.2 Gender specific indicators will be included in the M&amp;E framework.</p> <p>4.3 Reporting on gender disaggregated data will be systematically applied to programme activities.</p>	<p>FAO ECTAD has provided financial or/and technical support at national level for <b>(4.1)</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Myanmar, recruitment of a national and an international gender specialist to conduct a gender analysis including a gender stocktaking exercise and to develop a gender action plan to ensure gender is mainstreamed in the Myanmar GHSP Project and ECTAD Myanmar programme. Results will be used to inform gender inclusion in the programme M&amp;E framework.</li> <li>ii. Viet Nam, recruitment of a national specialist to identify the current knowledge and gaps regarding returns on investment (ROI) for women livestock owners.</li> </ul> <p>In Asia, ECTAD has recruited a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) consultant to conduct a GEDSI analysis to identify needs, constraints and opportunities in integrating GEDSI aspects in the SMART-ASEAN project, funded by the Government of Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The findings are expected to inform the development of a GEDSI work plan, with a M&amp;E framework with gender specific indicators. <b>(4.1)</b></p> <p>ECTAD has appointed a gender focal point to coordinate work related to gender mainstreaming within the programme in Asia <b>(4.1)</b>.</p> <p>Inclusion of activities related to gender in the new GHS, programme (4.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Profile gender dimensions within AMR and PZDs in One Health-related policies, strategies, plans and legislation (4.2).</li> <li>ii. Ensure gender inclusiveness throughout FAO/GHS programme implementation, as well as implementation of gender-sensitive activities and approaches <b>(4.1)</b>.</li> </ul> <p>ECTAD has conducted a program-wide analysis to identify needs, constraints and opportunities to mainstream gender equality aspects into ECTAD Asia program <b>(4.2)</b>.</p>	Advancing	<p>The program-wide gender analysis improved the understanding and awareness of gender dimensions in ECTAD Asia program. Based on the findings, a roadmap that includes strategies, action plans and recommendations for FAO ECTAD in Asia was developed and is currently being implemented to ensure gender perspectives and approaches to achieve the goal of gender equality are integrated into the programme <b>(4.2)</b>.</p> <p>ECTAD’s work in Asia will enable the expansion of analysis to identify needs, constraints and opportunities to mainstream gender equality aspects in other regions as well <b>(4.2)</b>.</p> <p>Profiling gender dimensions within AMR and PZDs in One Health-related policies, strategies, plans and legislation will identify entry points for gender inclusiveness in activities and approaches in Africa <b>(4.2)</b></p> <p>The context of emerging and re-emerging diseases exposes animal health professionals to infectious risks in Africa. The contribution of women veterinarians is part of the dynamics of public health protection. Therefore, stakeholders are urged to integrate the gender approach in capacity building. The training is expected to improve the</p>

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			<p>ECTAD has established an informal collaboration with the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tourism, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) in Asia and the Pacific that has an extensive network of female farmers. An interview and a questionnaire were conducted to better understand the needs and priorities of female farmers (4.2).</p> <p>ECTAD has started reviewing the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET), the Epidemiology Mapping Tool (EMT) and the Regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (R-FETPV) to better incorporate aspects of gender in its programme in Asia (4.2).</p> <p>A gender assessment of the Regional GHSP AMR Project was done to check for AMR project areas for potential inclusion of gender (4.2).</p> <p>A gender mainstreaming checklist for AMR initiatives in the agriculture sector was prepared by ECTAD in Asia. This checklist is aligned with the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025, the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020 – 2030 as well as the FAO Guide on Mainstreaming Gender in FAO's project cycle (4.2).</p> <p>Inclusion of activities related to gender in the new Africa GHS, programme (4.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Profile gender dimensions within AMR and PZDs in One Health-related policies, strategies, plans and legislation (4.2).</li> <li>ii. Ensure gender inclusiveness throughout FAO/GHS programme implementation, as well as implementation of gender-sensitive activities and approaches (4.1).</li> <li>iii. FAO-ECTAD in Senegal has reinforced the capacities of 30 women veterinarians in AMR and biosafety/biosecurity management. The 30 female veterinarians trained will then educate female producers in areas at high risk of zoonotic diseases. FAO supports this training of trainers under the</li> </ul>		<p>understanding and awareness of gender dimensions not only in Senegal, but throughout ECTAD-WCA countries (4.2)</p> <p>The 28 women empowered by FAO-ECTAD in Ghana allowed minimizing the spread of avian influenza from farm to farm of the women in poultry value chain. The implementation of the poultry biosecurity certification plan will promote prevention and control of disease pathogens being introduced on poultry farms (4.2).</p>



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			<p>GHSA Program implemented by FAO-ECTAD in Senegal and funded by USAID (4.2).</p> <p>iv. FAO-ECTAD in Ghana supported the training of 21 female Community Animal Health Workers in the use of FAO Event Mobile Application (EMA-i), organized by Ghana Poultry Network/Veterinarians without Borders-Canada. These women community animal health workers (CAHWs) operate in remote communities where there are no veterinary officers. They provide basic animal health care services at community level such parasite control, wound dressings and advising farmers on disease prevention and control measures. In addition, they report disease events to the nearest veterinary officers who then report to the district veterinary officers (4.2).</p> <p>v. FAO-ECTAD in Ghana provided support to the Apex Women in Poultry Value Chain on poultry biosecurity during the outbreaks of Avian Influenza in 2021 and supported the validation of the poultry Biosecurity certification plan. This training allowed 28 women to be sensitized and to acquire basic knowledge on aspects related to biosecurity measures in poultry farms (4.2).</p>		

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<p><b>Recommendation 5.</b></p> <p>The evaluation recommends a high-level review of how ECTAD can support broader livestock-related work across the various technical departments and divisions, including NSA, fisheries, food safety, AMR and resilience building in the face of disasters and emergencies. The review should be carried out by the appropriate key strategic offices and consult with decentralized offices and resilience hubs, where considerable experience and viewpoints are to be found on how ECTAD might evolve to support a more effective and efficient programme of livestock work.</p>	<p><b>Accepted</b></p>	<p>A high-level review of ECTAD's position will be undertaken in consultation with key strategic technical departments and divisions within the FCC framework.</p> <p>In addition, as part of FAO's strategic review on its priority programmes on One Health and Biosecurity, ECTAD's role can be expanded to a broader livestock related work. This review is expected to complete before June 2021 in order to prepare for the medium-term plans (2022–25) and consider the common issues at national level for implementing One Health, improving food security and resilience as well as natural disaster risk reduction.</p>	<p>In principle this is happening to some extent but not under the framework of ECTAD alone. Different joint platforms have been established within OER's Global Programme Support Team to deliver on programming including with NSA (ECTAD/EMC), NSP (L3 Desert Locust Response), ESF (collaborative work linked to reducing the risk of COVID-19 along the food value chain), CJW (collaboration on OH/PPA) and ESN (Global Action Plan for Child Wasting). These are all co-platforms within the Global Programme Support Team of OER and various technical divisions. Most of these joint platforms include the full engagement of headquarters, S/RO (hubs) and country offices.</p> <p>ECTAD already includes some AMR programming within its current work and in the future GHS Program.</p>	<p>Advancing</p>	<p>Highlighting and expanding ECTAD's role within the One Health PPA is strongly contributing to the achievement of Recommendation 5.</p>

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