



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health

## Strategic action plan 2018–2022



A world  
prepared  
to manage  
high impact  
animal health  
emergencies



**A**nimal health emergencies are evolving. Infectious diseases and other threats have increasing potential to spread rapidly within a country or around the world due to growing populations, market intensification and global trade. Half of the 900 million people living in poverty depend on livestock to survive.

Animal health emergencies may be caused by a number of different hazards, including outbreaks of high impact transboundary animal diseases that can spread rapidly. Other examples include emerging diseases, fish diseases, and zoonotic diseases with potential to affect human health. Humanitarian crises as well as natural disasters and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazards may also result in animal health emergencies. These emergencies can have **serious socio-economic and public health consequences**. For zoonotic agents that develop the ability for human-to-human spread, early response to an animal health emergency could **prevent the next pandemic**.

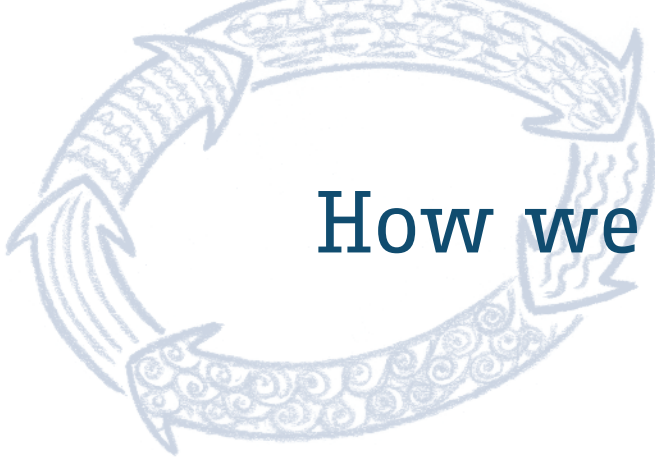


The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) **Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health (EMC-AH)** has been leading global animal health emergency management since 2006. EMC-AH is a joint platform for FAO's Animal Production and Health, and Emergency and Rehabilitation divisions with the aim of reducing the impact of animal health emergencies.

Today emergency preparedness capacity in many countries is insufficient and international coordination is too limited to fully understand the risks and reduce the consequences of animal health emergencies.

EMC-AH is adapting to the changing environment with its 2018–2022 strategy to meet the global needs of national, regional and international stakeholders. By advancing, broadening and refining its work, EMC-AH aims to **support all components of emergency management**, in close collaboration with partners and in line with the level of commitment and resources. This new way of working will offer a holistic and sustainable international platform to **reduce the impact of animal health emergencies.** ■





# How we work

**A**s the leading global centre of animal health emergency management the **purpose** of EMC-AH is to reduce the impact of animal health emergencies, whether caused by natural occurrence, accidental or deliberate introduction, by enhancing country, regional and international preparedness and response capacity.

The **vision** of EMC-AH is a world prepared to manage high impact animal health-related emergencies. This reflects the inspirational, long-term desired change resulting from the joint work of EMC-AH, other relevant FAO units such as the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES) and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), and other partners in animalhealth emergency management to **protect livelihoods and ensure food security** in a sustainable way.



The **scope** of the work of EMC-AH includes implementation of activities in all five stages of the emergency management cycle, in accordance with FAO's **Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP)**.

EMC-AH will provide the platform, tools, support and coordination of national, regional and international actions that build, sustain and improve animal health-related emergency **preparedness** and **response** capabilities. EMC-AH will also identify needs in the remaining GEMP stages of **prevention**, **detection** and **recovery** to be addressed principally by other FAO units or partners.



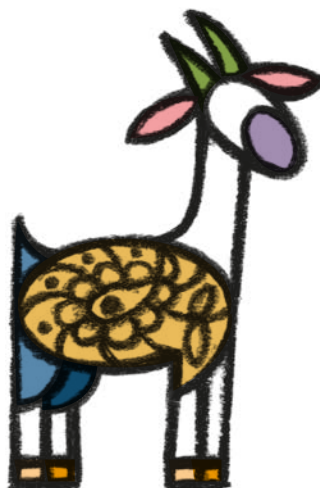




Working in close collaboration with FAO offices at country, subregional and regional levels, and with other partners, EMC-AH will continue to **support and organize various GEMP trainings** to reach a wide audience of stakeholders and expose them to animal health emergency management tools. EMC-AH will regularly update GEMP materials.

As a key function, EMC-AH will maintain its leadership of **rapid, coordinated and strategic response** to country requests around animal health emergencies. EMC-AH will expand its pool of technical and emergency management experts from world-leading institutions and organizations. This will strengthen EMC-AH capacity for rapid identification and deployment of targeted emergency missions to help assess situations and deliver rapid solutions.

EMC-AH will increase its provision of technical support to country offices with ongoing FAO Level 3 emergency response operations as well as to countries in protracted crisis situations. In the event of Level 3 activation for infectious hazards including zoonotic diseases, EMC-AH will provide support to the coordination and management of FAO emergency response activities. ■■■



The EMC-AH will increase resilience of livelihoods to animal health-related emergencies and zoonoses through four core functions.



EMC-AH will also support **Anticipation** and **Recovery**.

EMC-AH is an integral component of the FAO resilience strategy which is complementary to that of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners.

EMC-AH must maintain key human resources essential to carry out its strategic objectives. The core platform includes managerial capacities, technical expertise, operations support, communications (including outreach and advocacy), monitoring, evaluation and reporting. ■



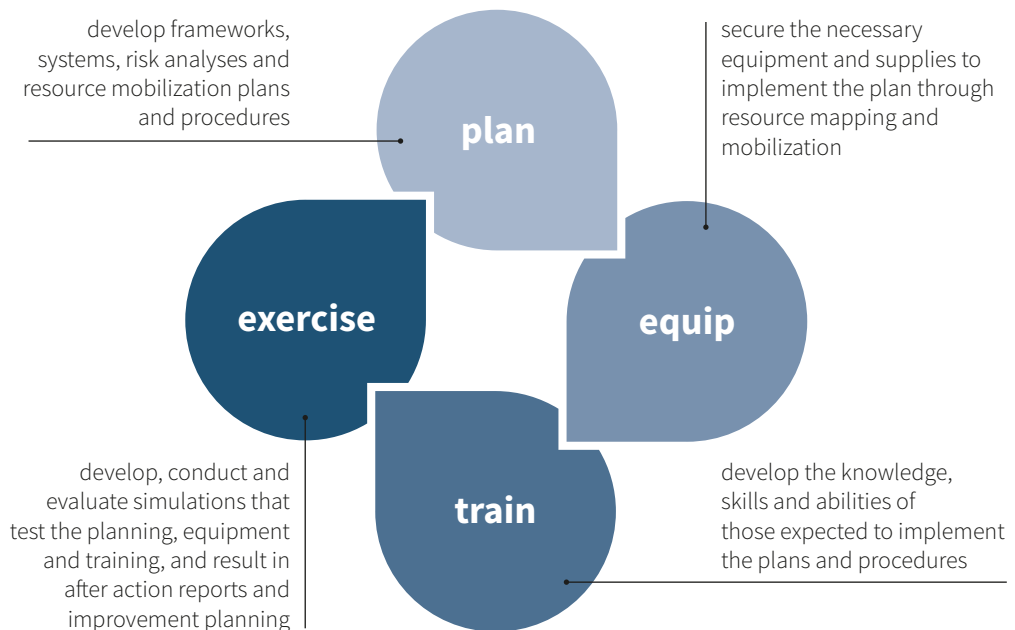
Strengthening  
country, regional  
and international  
capacity  
to manage  
high impact  
animal diseases  
and zoonoses  
enhances  
global readiness



# Preparedness

In order to help countries, regional and international authorities prepare for animal disease emergencies and reduce vulnerability to shocks, EMC-AH develops and disseminates practical, science-based and field-proven tools, advice, methodologies and other guidance. While the focus is building capacity for animal disease preparedness, these capabilities are applicable to animal health emergencies caused by other hazards. EMC-AH will place a renewed emphasis on emergency preparedness.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CYCLE



**ACTION Modernize, develop and implement GEMP tools.**

The *GEMP Essentials* manual and training workshops raise awareness of good practices, provide valuable technical guidance and strengthen animal health programmes.

- Update the *GEMP Essentials* materials to reflect the latest principles and methods regarding: incident management, incident coordination through emergency operations centres, One Health approaches at the animal-human-environment interface, the deliberate use of animal pathogens as biological threats (bioterrorism), and the progressive preparedness pathway for managing animal health emergencies in countries developing emergency management capacity.
- Deliver improved *GEMP Essentials* training, training of trainers and establish a collaborative network of trainers.



The development of new GEMP Advanced tools will provide direct support to countries by addressing emergency management planning, standard operating procedures, training, exercises and assessing the evolution of the country preparedness through a progressive preparedness pathway.

- Develop guidance materials, training curricula and methods for GEMP Advanced tools.
- Conduct and support training, simulation exercises, and monitoring and evaluation on GEMP Advanced tools at country, regional and international levels.

**ACTION Build and maintain a stockpile of personal protective equipment to support EMC-AH activities.**

**ACTION Support emergency preparedness activities in the FAO Animal Health Service.** ■



Rapid  
deployment of  
missions and  
other emergency  
management  
support continues  
to be critical for  
many countries  
and regions





**W**ith the unique capability to deploy rapid, coordinated and strategic missions, EMC-AH helps affected governments respond to animal health threats and emergencies. EMC-AH also intends to provide vital surge support in countries affected by severe crises.

**ACTION Rapid deployment of missions to support emergency response in countries and regions with animal health emergencies.**

- Develop criteria and trigger mechanisms for rapid response missions.
- Assist countries facing imminent animal health risks to take early action by conducting outreach and deploying emergency preparedness missions.
- Sustain missions for situational assessment and delivery of immediate recommendations for country actions.
- Provide surge support for protracted emergencies including disease investigation, diagnosis, sample shipment, risk communication, emergency vaccines, resource mobilization and coordination of emergency response at country and regional levels.



**ACTION Provide animal health technical and operation support to FAO Level 3 emergency response operations.**

- Act as a focal point and coordinator for technical expertise on animal health related threats.
- Support FAO management and coordination of Level 3 animal health related emergency response operations including surge deployments, internal communications, and development of appeals and action plans.

**ACTION Maintain a roster of animal health and emergency management experts to meet country requests for needs assessments, rapid response and surge support. ■■**





Developing  
leadership  
and expertise  
supports national,  
regional and  
international  
coordination of  
animal health  
incidents



# Incident coordination

**A**s the central coordinating body for global animal health emergency management, EMC-AH provides services ranging from situation analysis and reporting, to coordination of an event or emergency incident.

**ACTION** Restore the **FAO Animal Health Emergency Operations Centre (AH-EOC)** to function as the central coordinating body for emergency management practices in **FAO animal health programmes**.

- Develop an AH-EOC action plan and validate the plan, equipment and training through simulation exercises.
- Enhance the infrastructure, workforce knowledge, skills and abilities for AH-EOC operations.
- Ensure AH-EOC alignment with WHO, OIE and other partner programmes, platforms and projects.
- Support FAO to institutionalize coordination of animal health emergencies according to One Health principles.



**ACTION Create national, regional and international AH-EOC framework guidance.**

- Develop and test adaptable AH-EOC framework guidance.
- Disseminate guidance to national, regional and international stakeholders.
- Collaborate with national governments to implement the framework and establish a pilot AH-EOC.
- Coordinate resource partners to identify countries to support implementation of the AH-EOC framework. ■



Strong  
collaborative  
networks  
and resource  
availability are  
essential for timely  
and effective  
emergency  
management



# Collaboration and resource mobilization

**T**he key international partners of EMC-AH are OIE and WHO. EMC-AH will expand collaboration and integration with international organizations and other partners.

## **ACTION** Strengthen collaborative networks.

- Strengthen collaboration and coordination, share emergency management expertise and provide assistance to FAO programmes and platforms.
- Strengthen collaboration with OIE and conduct joint activities.
- Strengthen collaboration with WHO relative to zoonotic disease and One Health coordination and conduct joint activities.
- Foster multisectoral partnerships with other non-governmental organizations and the private sector across the emergency management spectrum.





**ACTION** Increase resource mobilization.

- Advocate for the EMC-AH platform, increase strategic engagement with resource partners and strengthen resource mobilization mechanisms in order to continue building resilience.
- Solicit support through the FAO regular programme budget, strengthen partnerships with external resource partners and develop new resource mobilization opportunities.
- Leverage the many existing tools, actions, and platforms to strengthen collaborative networks and resource mobilization. ■



## Anticipation

Upstream risk identification is critical in order to enhance resilience to shocks. This approach requires action at the national, regional and international levels to ensure that local communities and institutions anticipate crises and disasters in a timely, interdisciplinary and sustainable manner.

Response capabilities are highly dependent on the level of preparedness of countries and regions, veterinary services capabilities and the animal health situation. Identifying the risk of crises will assist in the development and implementation of emergency plans.

### **ACTION Assess country preparedness and response mechanisms and capacities in order to support FAO prevention and detection activities.**

- Support prioritization of countries and regions for capacity building through assessing the potential for Level 3 crises with an animal health component.
- Collaborate with FAO and partner programmes, services and platforms on capacity building activities through the development of GEMP training modules and targeted assistance.
- Assist countries that require short-term action to prevent animal health threats from occurring, escalating or recurring through rapid deployment of missions.

## Recovery

The transition from emergency to recovery is an important but often neglected stage of animal health emergency management. EMC-AH will strengthen recovery efforts and support innovative approaches which promote restoration following animal health emergencies.

### **ACTION Identify needs and provide guidance in collaboration with EMPRES and ECTAD to assist countries and regions to recover from an animal health emergency.**

- Support development of FAO projects focusing on the transition from emergency response to restoration and development.
- Share strategies and lessons learned, and support capacity development to reduce the future impacts of animal health emergencies.
- Collaborate with governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to develop and disseminate restoration guidelines after animal health emergencies. ■■■



Assisting  
countries  
to manage  
animal health  
emergencies  
protects livelihoods  
and saves lives



Illustrations: Chiara Caproni, Roma