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United Nations



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
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# Global control of African swine fever

## A GF-TADs initiative



2020-2025





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# Call for action

**African swine fever (ASF) is an infectious disease of domestic and wild pigs.** The number of countries or territories affected by ASF has increased in recent years, with notifications from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and Asia.

**Recognising the current heightened global risk to all countries, and the significant impact of the disease** on animal health and welfare, food security, national and global economies, rural development and social and political behaviour, an appeal was made at the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for a global initiative to control ASF.

**Resolution No. 33 of the 87th General Session recognised the complexity of ASF, the response to which requires multi-sectoral and multi-institutional cooperation.**

It also noted the long-standing collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the OIE in supporting their membership in the management of animal health related risks. The Resolution identified the key roles to be played by countries, the FAO and the OIE in the global control of ASF. This included the need for ASF to be considered as a disease that requires adequate risk management through development and refinement of national control programmes, and the need to

recognise risk communication as a crucial component of effectively addressing risk pathways and high-risk practices. Countries were also encouraged to maintain transparency through timely disease notification and manage risks by implementing the international standards in relation to zoning, compartmentalisation and applying commodity-based trade measures.

The Resolution tasked the **OIE with working in collaboration with FAO to launch an initiative for the global control of ASF.** The FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) was identified as the appropriate platform to develop and promote national, regional and global partnerships, to strengthen prevention and preparedness measures, and to minimise the adverse impacts of ASF on the health and welfare of pigs and on international trade.

The FAO and the OIE are to identify and define, in compliance with the relevant international standards and guidelines, the guiding principles and success factors required for the global control of ASF. This will include support mechanisms to improve the capability of countries to control ASF, improve coordination and cooperation of key stakeholders from the private and public sector, and minimise the consequences of ASF through business continuity.



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# Strategic challenges to the global control of ASF

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African swine fever has never been so wide-spread and the scale of the national and regional challenges to control<sup>1</sup> ASF should not be under-estimated. It will require long-term commitment by all involved to tackle this global threat.

Despite this daunting and complex challenge, **the global control of ASF is feasible**, but unlikely to be successful and sustainable without determined national efforts. Control measures should be coordinated at the regional and global levels and embedded into supra-national frameworks that consider the diverse socio-cultural, geographical, political and economic needs and characteristics of

each region. This should be achieved through engagement with a broad range of international, regional and national agencies, as well as stakeholder organisations, with the public and private sectors working in close coordination and with aligned objectives.

**International standards for the control of ASF already exist**, as does expertise to support implementation. However, the major gap that has, to date, prevented effective and efficient international, regional and national control is the difficulty of implementing these international recommendations under the diverse and challenging scenarios that countries face.

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The major factors that increase the risk of spread are livestock management systems with **inadequate biosecurity measures**, and **human behaviour**.

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<sup>1</sup> “Control” is defined as to either prevent, respond or eradicate, depending on the national or regional situation.







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Access to adequate and sustainable resources to implement the recommended measures on **preparedness, prevention, detection** and **control**, will be a challenge to many countries and will require support from development partners.

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The major factors that increase the risk of spread in such scenarios are livestock management systems with inadequate bio-security measures, and human behaviour. Many countries struggle to effectively implement control measures for livestock diseases due to shortcomings of their Veterinary Services. On many occasions, this is linked to a lack of political support and long-term investment, inadequate consideration of the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, and policies based on insufficient crisis management strategies that are unable to effectively implement, coordinate and sustain the required activities and resources. Support is needed to enable effective operational implementation of existing standards by these countries and to provide expert knowledge using multi-disciplinary approaches adapted to the national situation.

Failure or inability to adapt to varying epidemiological scenarios increases the importance of research and development activities to provide not only new or improved tools and methods, but also knowledge and information that can help to better control ASF, or lead to fresh approaches to tackle problems in long-standing endemic scenarios.

**The lack of an effective vaccine is another well-recognised gap in the control of ASF** and coordinated research and development programmes are needed for the development of safe and efficient vaccines. Other needs include improved diagnostic tests, and the production of appropriate technical guidelines to tackle new and growing issues that are being identified as countries struggle to respond to ASF outbreaks.



**Knowledge gaps in several critical areas will have to be addressed through studies** for which assistance and support need to be provided. Important gaps include: the epidemiology of ASF in wild pigs; the role of ticks; understanding national and regional pig value chains; the effects of ASF in different pig production systems; and the socio-economic impact of the disease and control measures.

Identifying regional specificities and differences within the pig sector (e.g. highly industrialised, small holders, free ranging, etc.) and timely exchange and dissemination of information and best practices are crucial to building and implementing science-based national and regional control strategies. Establishing regional Standing Groups of Experts on ASF (SGEs-ASF) under the umbrella of GF-TADs can promote such exchange among risk managers and international and national experts and facilitate regional and global coordination of disease control policies and strategies. The emphasis on the reliance of all Members on international and regional solidarity and cooperation in the face of transboundary diseases is supported through such mechanisms.

Access to adequate and sustainable resources to implement the recommended measures on preparedness, prevention, detection and control, will be a challenge for many countries and will require support from development partners.

The GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF aims to tackle the strategic challenges to effectively address the mandate given to the OIE and FAO by defining the objectives and providing the structure for specific outputs and outcomes to be achieved for the global control of the disease.



# Governance

**The GF-TADs is an effective framework to fight transboundary animal diseases such as ASF,** as it fosters regional alliances by providing guidelines, direction and coordination among Members and partners. GF-TADs could also provide opportunities for synergies with existing global and regional control and eradication strategies for other TADs that are already in place under this framework, such as on-going activities on surveillance, biosecurity and outbreak response.

At the global level, the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee will provide guidance on the initiative for the global control of ASF and on related activities of global relevance to be implemented by the GF-TADs Global Secretariat through the joint FAO/OIE GF-TADs ASF Working Group and under the supervision and agreement of the GF-TADs Management Committee.

The GF-TADs Global Steering Committee provides strategic direction to the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees and facilitates collaboration and cooperation between the global and regional levels. At the regional level, the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees ensure coordination of the work plan activities with the support of the GF-TADs Regional Secretariats. The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees provide a strategic link to national Veterinary Services and their national control programmes, as well as to regional stakeholder and expert networks that must be enlisted as implementation partners for successful regional and national control.

The Regional and Sub-Regional FAO and OIE Representations will be critical in overseeing, coordinating and advancing the implementation of the GF-TADs initiative for the global control of ASF and related regional strategies and operational plans.



# Monitoring and evaluation

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Objectives of the proposed interventions form the basis for the Global Initiative's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts. Indicators at the output and outcome levels are developed and used to measure progress and level of achievement, and to provide assurance to the developing partners and countries.

Monitoring of indicators at the output level will be continually ensured by FAO and OIE, with bi-annual M&E reports. The plausibility of output–outcome relations will be critically reviewed and progress along outcomes will be assessed before the annual reporting of the Global Initiative. Evaluations of the Global Initiative along the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Evaluation Criteria<sup>2</sup> will be conducted on a triennial basis. Recommendations from the evaluations will, among others, inform revision of the Global Initiative's Theory of Change and Logic Framework.

Monitoring of progress and determination of performance indicators adapted to the regional situation will be provided by the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees to the Regional and Global Secretariat for effective field, laboratory and epidemiological evaluation of disease events and control efforts.

The GF-TADs website will be used as a centralised reporting mechanism, linking to activities reported on FAO and OIE websites as necessary. An ASF webpage on this website will be created, with a structure reflecting the objectives, outcomes and outputs listed in the Theory of Change, ensuring all the associated resources produced through this GF-TADs initiative are readily accessible, including plans and progress reports.

<sup>2</sup> Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability.



# Theory of change

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The Theory of Change states the problem, defines the goal, identifies the key success factors, and outlines the objectives and corresponding outputs. African swine fever is a global threat to animal health and food security with negative socio-economic impacts. Although control is feasible with the current risk mitigation tools, success will inevitably require strong national leadership supported by regional and global coordination.

## Goal and purpose

The goal is defined as achieving global control of ASF, which would be determined based on the combination of the following criteria:



No new countries affected by ASF



Decline in the number of ASF cases



Decline in the number of countries affected by ASF



Reduced losses due to ASF

Achieving the goal requires a long-term national and international commitment. Although meeting all the criteria may not be possible in the short term, continuing to meet some of these criteria annually would indicate improvement of the global situation, which would in turn provide the necessary motivation and justification to maintain commitment to the initiative.

The global control of ASF will protect the health and ensure the welfare of both domestic and wild pigs, will ensure business continuity and will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the alleviation of poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2).

## Key factors for success

The following key success factors need to be carefully considered for sustainable global control of ASF:

**An intelligence framework** that enables gathering and management of disease intelligence data and information to address gaps in understanding ASF;

**Operational and technical capability** to implement the international standards and guidelines;

**Risk communication** to strengthen commitment and cooperation of stakeholders;

**Resources** that are adequate and sustainable.

These cross-cutting factors will be addressed through the objectives, outcomes and outputs defined in the theory of change.

# Objectives

Three objectives are defined to achieve outcomes that could be described as pre-conditions for achieving the goal of global control of ASF. These objectives form the logic framework under which the outcomes and outputs are defined, and the operational plan of activities is established.



**Objective 1.** Improve the capability of countries to control (prevent, respond, eradicate) ASF using OIE standards and best practices that are based on the latest science.



**Objective 2.** Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF.

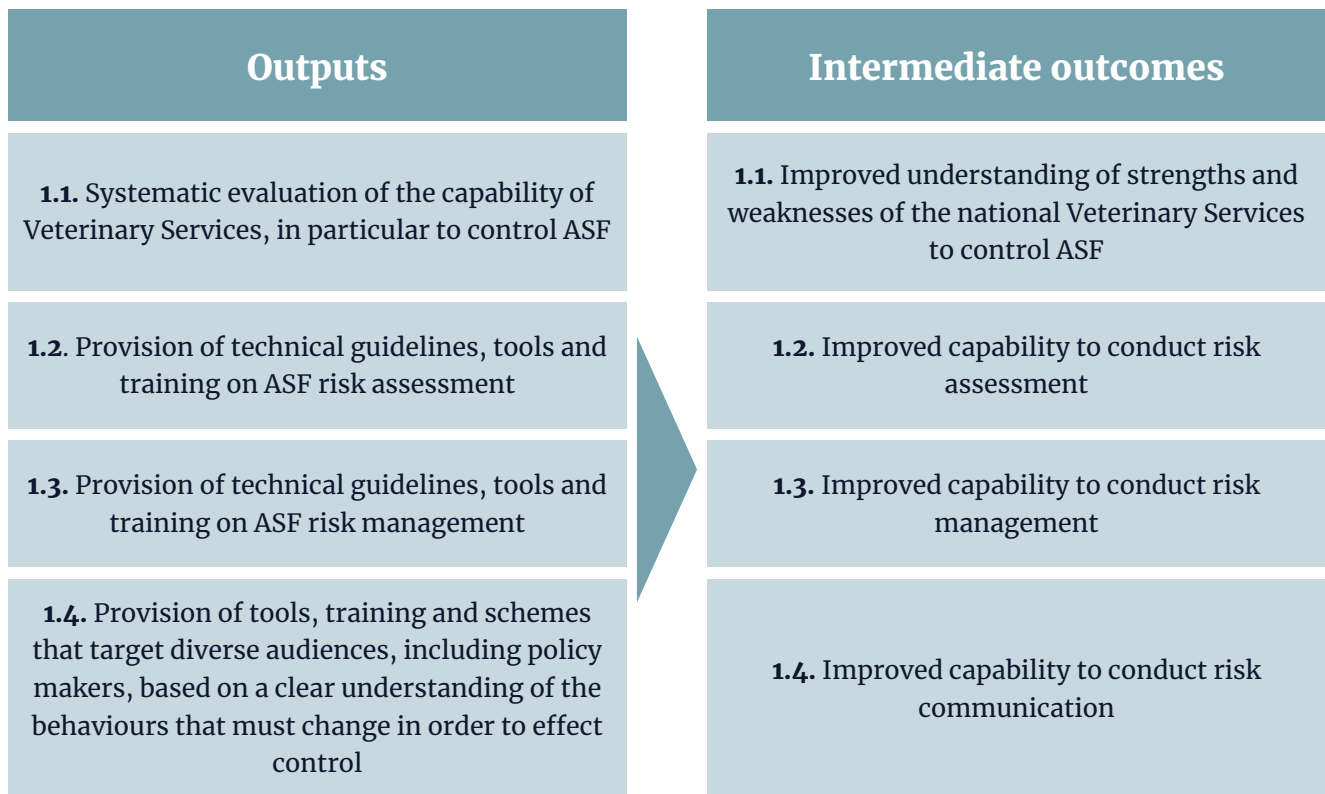


**Objective 3.** Facilitate business continuity.

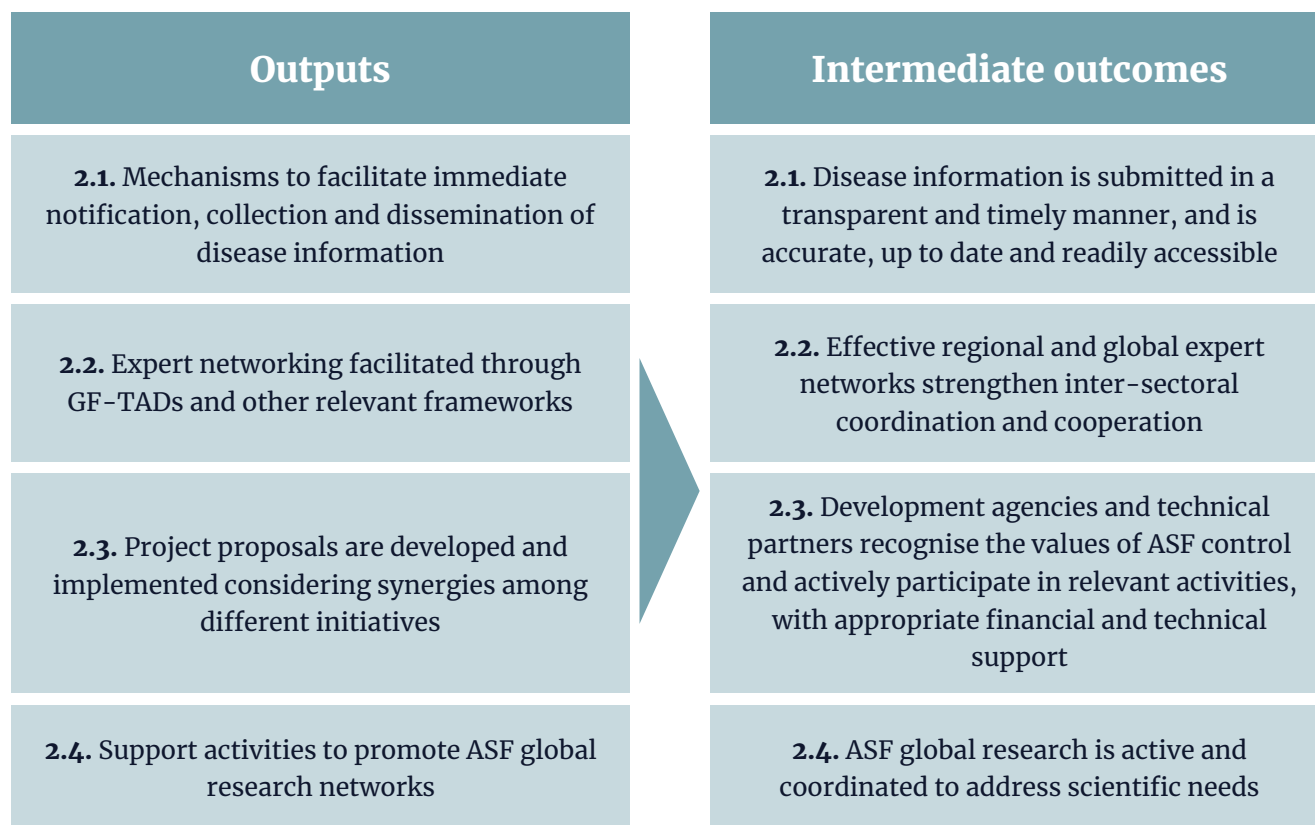
# Outcomes and outputs

The outputs from the activities that will lead to intermediate and final outcomes are defined as follows.

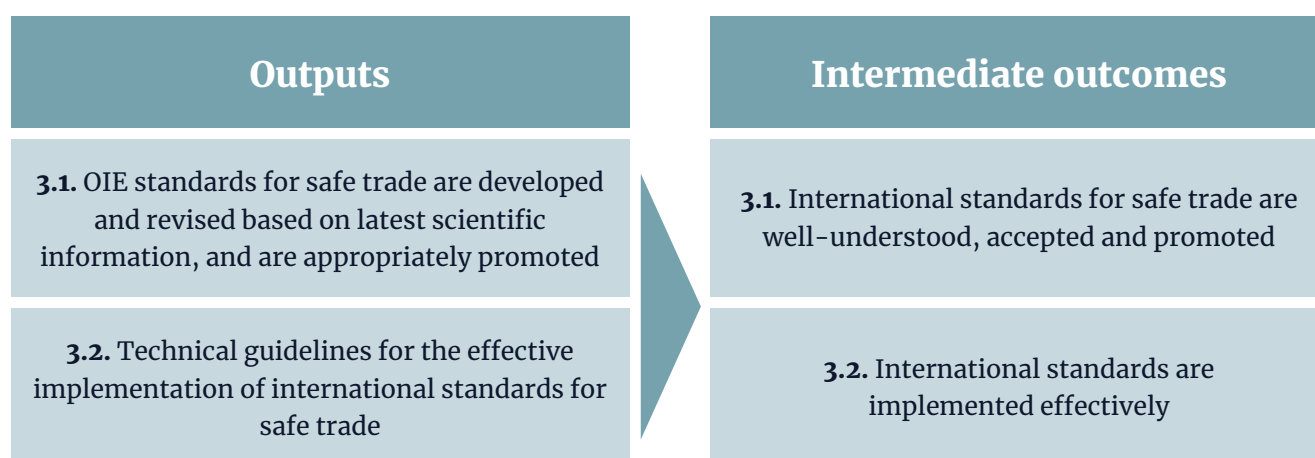
**Figure 1. Outcome 1: Capability of countries to control ASF is improved**



**Figure 2. Outcome 2: Regional and global coordination and cooperation to control ASF is improved**



**Figure 3. Outcome 3: National, regional and international trade of pigs and their products, based on international standards and guidelines, is facilitated**



The steps in the theory of change are translated into a Logic Framework that describes the outputs and indicators, which will lead to the intermediate and final outcomes for each of the objectives.

The Operational Plan defines the specific activities implemented under the GF-TADs, which will enable the various outputs that lead to the intermediate and final outcomes to be achieved. The operational plan will be updated biannually in coordination with FAO and the OIE.

# Global control of ASF is achieved\*

No new countries affected with ASF

Decline in the number of countries affected by ASF

Decline in the number of ASF cases

Reduced losses due to ASF

\* The goal is achieved by meeting the four defined criteria. Meeting some of the criteria would indicate progress in achieving global control

## Outcomes

### Outcome 1

Capability of countries to control ASF is improved

- Improved understanding of strengths and weaknesses of the Veterinary Services to control ASF
- Improved capability to conduct risk assessment
- Improved capability to conduct risk management
- Improved capability to conduct risk communication

### Outcome 2

Regional & global coordination and cooperation is improved

- Disease information is transparent, accurate, up to date and accessible
- Effective regional & global expert networks strengthen inter-sectoral coordination & cooperation
- Development agencies and technical partners recognise values of ASF control and provide financial & technical support
- ASF global research is active and coordinated, addressing needs

### Outcome 3

National & international trade based on international standards and guidelines is facilitated

- International standards for safe trade are understood, accepted and promoted
- International standards are implemented effectively

## Outputs

- Evaluation of capability of Veterinary Services to control ASF
- Provision of technical guidelines, tools and training on risk assessment
- Provision of technical guidelines, tools and training on risk management
- Provision of tools, training and schemes on risk communication that target diverse audiences

- Mechanism to facilitate notification, collection and dissemination of disease information
- Expert networking facilitated through GF-TADs and relevant frameworks
- Project proposals developed and implemented considering synergies among different initiatives
- Support activities to promote ASF global research networks

- OIE standards for safe trade developed and revised based on latest scientific information, and promotion efforts
- Technical guidelines provided for the effective implementation of international standards for safe trade

## Objectives

### Objective 1

Improve capability of countries to control ASF \*\*

### Objective 2

Establish effective coordination and cooperation framework

### Objective 3

Facilitate business continuity

\*\* Defined as to either prevent, respond or eradicate, depending on the national or regional situation

## Key factors for success

### Intelligence framework

disease intelligence, information management

### Capability

strong veterinary services, technical competency

### Risk communication

strong commitment and cooperation

### Resources

adequately available and sustainable

## GF-TADs Framework (FAO, OIE)

## Problem Statement

ASF is a global threat to food security with negative socio-economic impact. Although control is feasible, success requires regional and global coordination.





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**GF-TADs**

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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