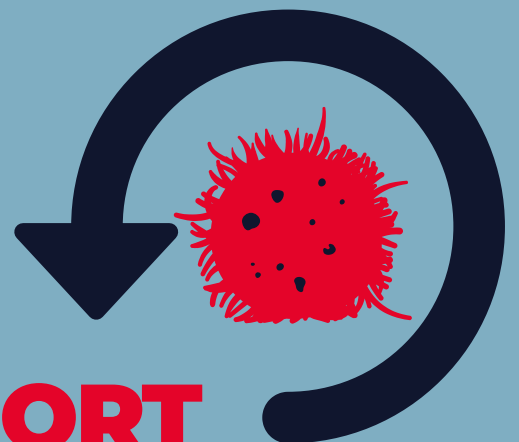




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Global Control of African swine fever

A GF-TADs initiative

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ACRONYMS

ASF	African swine fever
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EUVET	European Union Veterinary Emergency Team
FAO	Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GARA	Global ASF Research Alliance
GF-TADs	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIPORC	Organización Iberoamericana de Porcicultura
PPP	Public-private partnership
SGE	Standing Group of Experts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current African swine fever epizootic is a major global crisis, directly and indirectly impacting the pig industry and rural communities worldwide. In 2019, FAO and the OIE designated ASF as a global priority transboundary animal disease under the GF-TADs, and in July 2020 they released a jointly developed programme to control the disease worldwide – ‘Global Control of African Swine Fever: A GF-TADs Initiative’ (The Global Initiative).

In 2020, ASF virus continued to spread and the COVID-19 pandemic impacted field activities. However, global, regional and national stakeholders strove to maintain momentum in the control of ASF, in line with the objectives of the Global Initiative. Despite difficulties, some countries managed to eliminate the disease from their territories, indicating that ASF control is feasible with current tools.

The Global Initiative identifies coordination at regional and global levels as key to enhancing national control programmes. It allows countries with similar socio-economic and epidemiological situations to share information, challenges and best practices, and to discuss regional solutions and approaches to enhancing control.

It is expected that the global COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have a significant impact in 2021. Maintaining the commitment of stakeholders will remain essential if we are to make progress towards the goal of global ASF control. FAO and the OIE will continue to provide their support to Members, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships and the development of monitoring and evaluation systems.

This first report aims to highlight the progress achieved in 2020 by describing the key output indicators under the three main objectives of the Global Initiative. Progress is illustrated by showcasing some of the activities conducted in 2020.





ASF

**kills
pigs**



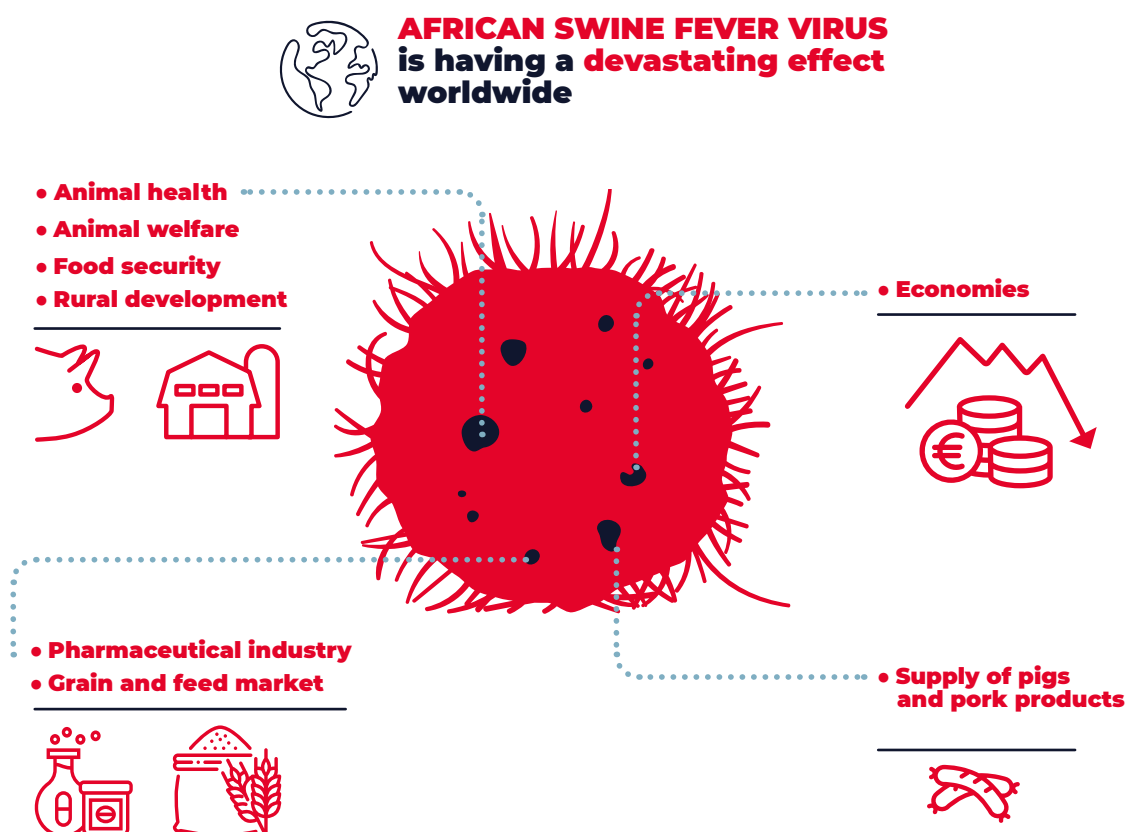
PREAMBLE

African swine fever virus is having a devastating effect on animal health and welfare, food security and rural development worldwide. National and global economies have been severely affected. The disease has had a huge impact on the supply of pigs and pork products globally. There is also a knock-on effect on other sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry and the global grain and feed market. If global control is not achieved, the continued spread of the virus could jeopardise the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 1 (no poverty) and Goal 2 (zero hunger).

The current African swine fever crisis could be considered the biggest global animal disease outbreak of our generation.

Despite the complex epidemiology of the disease and the challenges it poses, global control of ASF is feasible if the public and private sectors join forces and coordinate their actions in line with the Global Initiative.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the global effort to control and prevent ASF. Although the national and international travel restrictions in place have reduced the spread of ASF, the pandemic has also reduced the capacity of Veterinary Services for early detection. In some places, the drastic movement restrictions, coupled with the fear of some farmers of receiving external visitors on their farms, have prevented Veterinary Services from conducting routine surveillance visits. In addition, due to restrictions,



hunters have been limited in their capacity to implement control and monitoring activities in wild boar populations and, consequently, many wild pig carcasses have gone undetected. In addition, demands on national budgets have been overwhelming as funds have been diverted to minimise the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, ASF control remains a top priority for the GF-TADs and for the affected countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlights, more than ever, the importance of intersectoral collaboration and of improving the resilience of animal health systems worldwide. The Global Initiative aims to bring stakeholders from multiple sectors together to improve coordination, encourage sustained efforts to manage the disease and generate the political will needed to achieve global control of ASF.

As stated by the Director Generals of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) at the Call for Action event in October 2020, FAO and the OIE, under the GF-TADs, stand ready to support affected and at-risk countries in their battle against ASF. By combining our forces to strengthen animal health systems through the Global Initiative, we can make the global control of ASF a reality.

The GF-TADs ASF Working Group thank its colleagues, both from national Veterinary Services and the private sector, for their efforts in the implementation of the Global Initiative and for their contribution to this annual report.



ASF simulation exercises

THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES (GF-TADS)

The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) is a joint initiative between FAO and the OIE. Established in 2004, it enhances coordination of the main stakeholders involved in the control of priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) at global and regional levels.

The GF-TADS governing bodies include a Global Steering committee and five Regional Steering Committees (for Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East). These Committees consist of senior management of

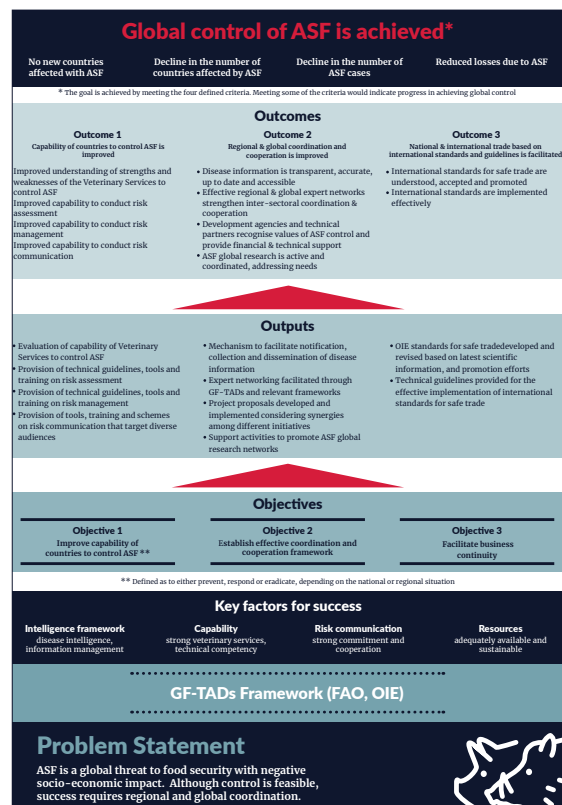
FAO and the OIE, representatives of the OIE and FAO's membership, and representatives from regional economic organisations, regional specialised organisations, donor organisations and other partners involved in the control of TADs.

African swine fever was first included as a priority TAD by the Regional Steering Committee for Europe in 2014. The Steering Committees for Asia-Pacific and the Americas included it in 2018, and it became a global priority for the GF-TADS in 2019.

THE GLOBAL CONTROL OF ASF: A GF-TADS INITIATIVE (2020–2025)

Following the appeal made at the 87th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE for a coordinated global approach to control ASF, FAO and the OIE developed the six-year Global Initiative under the umbrella of the GF-TADS. The Global Initiative, officially launched in January 2020 during the 85th Berlin International Green Week, was publicly released in July 2020. It recognises the essential role of stakeholders at regional level in addressing specific regional issues and it coordinates activities within and across the regions. The Global Initiative and the associated two-year action plan are available in the ASF section of the GF-TADS website, where information is regularly added and updated.

The Global Initiative was designed in consultation with stakeholders involved



Theory of change for the global initiative for the control of African swine fever



Operational Plan 2020

✓ **190**
activities in 2020
(30% of them have been postponed
due to the current COVID-19 pandemic)

✓ **18**
webinars 

✓ **Presentations**
in • Forums
• Meetings
• In Americas, Asia, Pacific and Europe

in GF-TADs at global and regional levels and it considers the different needs and existing, or planned strategies, at regional and local levels. It is structured according to a theory of change that states the problem, defines the goal, identifies the key success factors, and outlines the objectives and corresponding outputs.

In July 2020, the GF-TADs ASF Working Group was formed to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Global Initiative, and to contribute to the development and support of ASF control strategies at the global and regional levels. It is composed of three members of staff from FAO and three from the OIE (they include staff from the regional offices of the two organisations as well as their headquarters). It is supported by the global secretariat of the GF-TADs and reports to the management committee of the GF-TADs. Strategic decisions are made in consultation with and under the guidance of the Global Steering Committee of the GF-TADs. It is envisaged that the progress of the Global Initiative will be monitored through a

dedicated monitoring and evaluation framework which will be developed during 2021.

The GF-TADs ASF Working Group meets regularly and monitors the two-year Global Initiative Operational Plan, which is available on the GF-TADs website and which includes the activities planned at global and regional levels. A description of each activity, including its geographical scope, priority level and source of funding, can be found in the Global Initiative Operational Plan. The operational plan is updated every six months. In 2020, the ASF Working Group strongly advocated for global coordination and determined the important influence of political will to control the disease on the progress in the implementation of the Global Initiative.

At the time of writing, the Operational Plan included over 190 activities, 120 of which were planned to start in 2020 at global or regional level. However, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, about 30% of them have been postponed.

From 26 to 30 October 2020, FAO and the OIE held a series of virtual webinars under the heading, *African swine fever: An unprecedented global threat - A challenge to livelihoods, food security and biodiversity. Call for action*. This four-day event brought together international experts from national Veterinary Services, industry, academia, and regional and international partners. During the event, the participants reviewed existing tools, mechanisms and practices to effectively control the disease and called for action to adopt and implement the Global Initiative.

As a follow-up to this initial call to action, and to support efforts to control the disease, FAO and the OIE are organising a virtual event on public-private partnerships (PPPs) to be held in June 2021. The event will highlight the importance and role of PPP in the global control of ASF and promote the engagement of the public and private sectors in the Global Initiative. It is

expected that this global virtual event will then be followed by regional workshops to turn ideas into actions.

The ASF Working Group has also given presentations on the Global Initiative at different forums, including the EuFMD Open session in December 2020, meetings of the GF-TADS Global Steering Committee, and meetings of the three regional Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) for ASF (in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe).

The next sections present the progress achieved in 2020, following the order of the intermediate outcomes described in the results framework of the Global Initiative. As indicated in Table 1, intermediate outcomes 1.1, 2.3 and 3.1 are not described in this first annual report. For the other intermediate outcomes, the progress is illustrated with the description of some of the relevant outputs, together with examples.



Taking samples for active surveillance of ASF disease



Table 1. Summary of the Global Initiative intermediate outcomes included in this annual report

	Intermediate outcome	Described in the report	Comment
1.1.	Improved understanding of strengths and weaknesses of the Veterinary Services to control ASF	N	ASF-related specific-content PVS missions are in development
1.2.	Improved capability to conduct risk assessment	Y	
1.3.	Improved capability to conduct risk management	Y	
1.4.	Improved capability to conduct risk communication	Y	
2.1.	Disease information is transparent, accurate, up to date and accessible	Y	
2.2.	Effective regional and global expert networks strengthen, inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation	Y	
2.3.	Development agencies and technical partners recognise values of ASF control and provide financial and technical support	N	More than 20 development partners invested in GF-TADS ASF activities at global, regional and national levels in 2020
2.4.	ASF global research is active and coordinated, addressing needs	Y	
3.1.	International standards for safe trade are understood, accepted and promoted	N	Activities to ensure that international standards are well understood, accepted, promoted, and conducted regularly
3.2.	International standards are implemented effectively	Y	

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE

GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE

African swine fever control is feasible with the current risk mitigation tools; however, success will inevitably require

strong national leadership supported by regional and global coordination.



A regional veterinarian teaching the various local government animal health technicians the safest and least stressful way of blood sample collection in pigs for disease surveillance

THE GOAL OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE
will be considered achieved when a combination of the following
criteria have been met:

- NO NEW COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY ASF
- DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY ASF
- DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF ASF OUTBREAKS
- REDUCED LOSSES DUE TO ASF

Although meeting all the criteria at the same time may not be possible in the short term, if one or more of these criteria continue to be met year after year, this would indicate an improvement in the global situation. This would, in turn, provide the necessary motivation to maintain commitment to the initiative in

line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The trend in the number of previously infected countries making self-declarations of ASF freedom could be used as a proxy for progress towards the goal of ASF control.

ASF CONTROL – THE SELF-DECLARATION OF ASF FREEDOM

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.6. of the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* ‘Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE’, OIE Members can self-declare¹ freedom from ASF at the country, zone or compartment level. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration of disease freedom should provide the OIE with the requisite documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Publication of self-declaration of disease freedom is handled in an objective and transparent manner in accordance with the *standard operating procedure*, which is accessible online. Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

The updated list of ASF self-declarations is available [online](#). As of December 2020, 20 OIE Members have self-declared freedom from ASF: Austria, Azerbaijan,

¹ Self-declaration follows a different process than OIE official disease status recognition. The publication by the OIE of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE.

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Global Control of African swine fever

A GF-TADS initiative

Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The self-declarations of six countries (Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) were withdrawn during 2020 due to notification of the presence of infection in domestic or wild pig populations in all or part of their territories.

Recently, the Czech Republic and Belgium demonstrated that ASF control is feasible with current tools, even when the disease is present in wild pigs. Following the successful implementation of disease control measures, they recovered their free status and self-declared ASF freedom.





BELGIUM: A SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF ASF ERADICATION

A little more than two years after the first outbreak of ASF was confirmed on 13 September 2018 in wild boar in the south of Belgium ([link to notification](#)), the Belgian authorities proudly announced that the disease had been eradicated. The last case was confirmed on 4 March 2020 and on 20 November 2020, Belgium regained its ASF-free status at the European level when the European Commission approved the lifting of the ASF regulated zone ([Decision EU/2020/1741](#)). This meant that the intensive collaboration between authorities and the efforts to control the disease had finally paid off. Throughout this period, due to awareness-raising activities and the implementation of strict biosecurity measures, all domestic pig farms in Belgium remained free of ASF.

The collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to the management of ASF in Belgium developed by the partnership between the Federal and Regional authorities has been fundamental to this success. The Federal authority is responsible for animal health and disease control in domestic and captive wild pigs, while the regional authorities are responsible for animal health and disease control in wild boar.

As the disease had been present in Eastern Europe since 2014, both authorities had been preparing for an incursion of the disease in Belgian territory. In the year prior to the outbreak, a higher level of awareness and preparedness had been established among all ASF concerned stakeholders. As a result, as soon as the virus was detected in Belgium, there was a rapid response to the outbreak. The early detection of the disease, along with the intensive and strict measures implemented by the Belgian authorities in the affected wild boar population was the first step towards success. On top of this, **there was strong political commitment to achieving complete eradication of ASF**. The support of the European Commission, through its European Union Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET), also contributed greatly to the successful eradication of ASF in Belgium. EUVET experts were present from the very beginning of the ASF outbreak to evaluate and help orientate the control measures as the disease progressed in the wild boar population. The ASF control measures applied to the wild boar population by the Walloon authorities were fine-



tuned based on their valuable experience in ASF management.

The following measures were instrumental in the control of the disease:

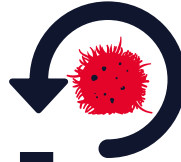
- a continuous **search for dead wild boars** in the forest, followed by the removal of these carcasses;
- a significant **reduction of the remaining wild boar population in the ASF zone** through shooting and trapping with caution to avoid movement of wild boars from outside the infected zone;
- and the building of a **network of 300 km of fences clustering an area of 1,106km²** to limit the dispersal of wild boars and stop the spread of the disease.

In the face of the current worldwide ASF crisis, values such as **transparency, knowledge-sharing and collaboration should be encouraged. It is impossible for any country to face this crisis on its own**; collaboration between countries and stakeholders is, and will remain, key to success.

Further information on ASF management in Belgium is available at the following links:

- The Federal Agency for Safety of the Food Chain
<https://www.fasfc.be/outbreaks-african-swine-fever>
- The Walloon Region – The Public Service of Wallonia
<https://www.wallonie.be/fr/peste-porcine-africaine>
- The Flemish Region – Agency of Nature and Forests:
<https://www.natuurenbos.be/afrikaansevarkenspest>



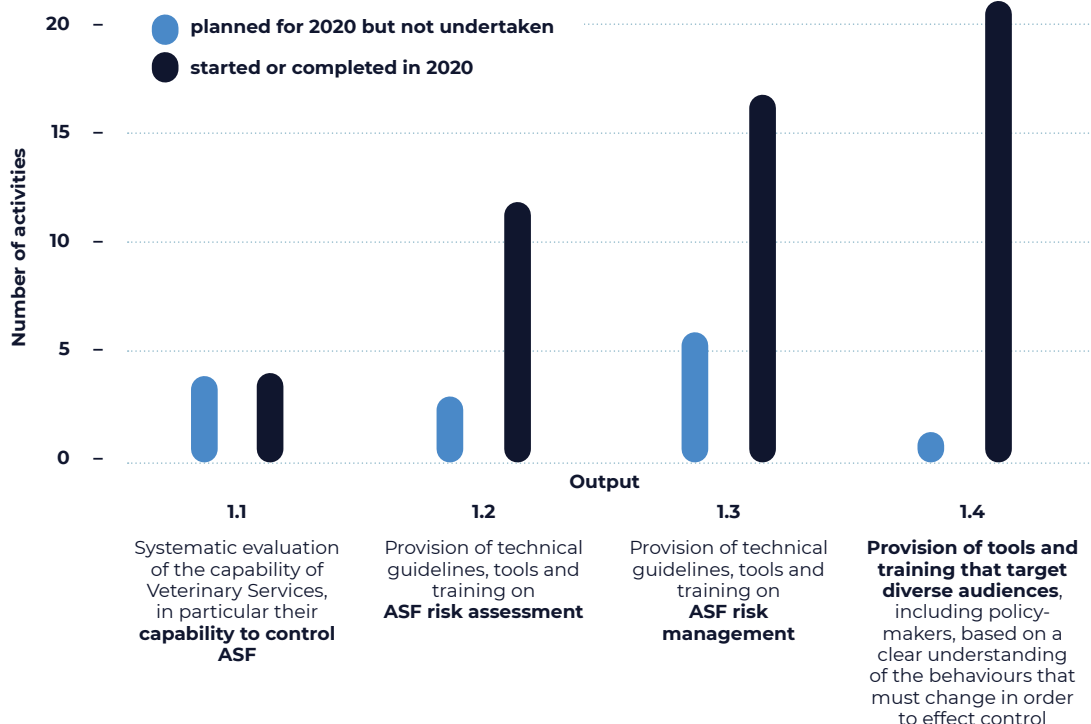


OBJECTIVE 1

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

To control ASF effectively, Members must ensure that the relevant OIE international standards, guidelines and best practices are implemented correctly. The activities under this objective aim to enhance the capability of Veterinary Services and stakeholders to implement risk-based control programmes. They include activities to improve the biosecurity measures applied in the pig production sector and on hunting grounds; activities to ensure the continuation of education and awareness-raising programmes for all relevant parties; and activities to improve traceability systems, outbreak response and wild pig management and to improve the capacity to control the effective implementation of the measures.

Graph 1. 2020 activities (outputs) under Objective 1 of the Global Initiative



The expected outcome of the activities conducted under this objective is the improvement of the capability of Members to control ASF.

In 2020, 65 activities were planned under this objective. The Global Initiative output indicators are shown in Graph 1.²

Intermediate outcomes 1.2. and 1.3.

IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

All stakeholders involved in the control of ASF should have the operational capability and capacity to implement their ASF national control programmes effectively. National Veterinary Services are at the frontline in the control of ASF and play a vital role in protecting the swine sector. Competent Veterinary Services based on international standards and the principles of good governance improve ASF control and make local and international trade safer. In addition, high-quality Veterinary Services give confidence to private-sector investors, which results in an improved national economy and better livelihoods.

Information on the current epidemiological situation in affected Members should be shared to ensure transparency and build expertise. Affected Members are encouraged to share up-to-date detailed information as well as lessons learnt from the challenges they have faced, particularly with regard to disease strategies, outbreak response and best practice. Control is enhanced through open communication, trust and knowledge. National control programmes are more efficient when supported by regional coordination and cooperation, and joint planning for areas where cross border movement of wild pigs, domestic pigs or pig products occurs.

Efforts have been made to improve understanding of the different value chains and of regional and inter-regional trade practices in order to better understand how ASF spreads, thereby informing risk mitigation and early detection strategies.

Members have improved their diagnostic capacity as they recognise that it is a key element of ASF surveillance. Three OIE laboratory twinning projects that focused on ASF were completed before 2020 (Spain and Kenya, Spain and Russia, Sweden and Uganda), one is ongoing (Australia and Vietnam) and one project was about to start at the time of writing (the United Kingdom and the Philippines). The list of OIE Twinning projects is regularly updated.

In addition, it is worth noting that one new OIE ASF Reference Laboratory was established this year, in Australia. A new candidate laboratory in the People's Republic of China will be proposed during the 88th OIE General Session in May 2021. To enhance coordination among ASF reference laboratories, a global laboratory network encompassing existing OIE ASF reference laboratories was also created this year.

In the Americas region, both the OIE and FAO implemented capacity-building

2. <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=9b60eb8a78bc41feb2bcd79da955f2ea>

activities. FAO provided extensive training in Central America and the Caribbean, and the OIE held training sessions for OIE Laboratory National Focal Points in the region, covering

topics such as ASF diagnosis, sampling and biosecurity. In addition, the OIE held a regional webinar for Communication Focal Points, focusing on ASF.

Table 2. Regional activities carried out in support of outputs 1.2. and 1.3.

Region	Output 1.2. Risk assessment	Output 1.3. Risk management
Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional risk assessment in South East Asia on cross-border spread and regional workshop on risk assessment in South East Asia (OIE) Risk assessment of ASF for Pacific island countries (FAO) Swine value chain workshop in three countries from South East Asia (FAO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of training materials for early detection, surveillance and investigation in Asia (FAO) Preparedness training webinars for 27 Pacific islands countries ASF online course for Asia and the Pacific (FAO) Training of trainers in seven countries from South East Asia on ASF preparedness and response
Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional risk evaluations; compilation, analysis and distribution of the results in 19 countries from the Americas Online training on a risk assessment tool developed by CARIBVET (FAO) 	Collaboration with OIRSA for a sub-regional simulation of ASF outbreak response for the Central America countries (FAO)
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a geospatial risk assessment for Europe to identify major risk factors (both in domestic pigs and wild boar) (FAO) Surveys of the pig sector (farms and live animal markets) to better understand socio-economic aspects, patterns, and to identify risk factors (FAO) Development of a cost-benefit assessment tool for ASF to evaluate the cost of the disease and different control strategies in Europe (FAO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a series of national (and one multi-national) simulation exercises in Europe (FAO) Implementation of an online (four-week) training course on ASF preparedness for veterinary services in Europe in English (up to 500 participants) (FAO) Implementation of an online (four-week) training course on ASF preparedness for Veterinary Services in the Balkans in Serbo-Croatian (FAO) Assessment missions, and round-table workshops with stakeholders to discuss wild boar management strategies (FAO) Adaptation of a mobile App for wildlife sightings to allow the reporting of wild boar carcasses (FAO) Regular coordination meetings (Balkans)



Intermediate outcome 1.3.
**IMPROVED CAPABILITY
TO CONDUCT RISK
MANAGEMENT**

AN EXAMPLE FROM CHINA

In 2020, to enhance ASF disease control and help the pig industry to resume, rebuild and develop, China implemented further prevention and control strategies based on risk assessment and enhanced biosecurity. **A number of pig farms with higher biosecurity conditions were selected to form a network of ASF-free establishments.** Drawing on principles of compartmentalisation as described in the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, selected pig farms implemented a unified biosecurity management system based on science-based risk assessment to allow business continuity within China.

The biosecurity management system requires:

- establishments to strengthen their biosecurity measures for fodder
- vehicles and people to engage in appropriate slaughter practices and disinfection procedures
- the implementation of other risk mitigation practices.

Local governments have provided local Veterinary Services with personnel and resources to enable them to support the upgrading and maintenance of these ASF-free establishments. This strengthening of local Veterinary Services has also **increased their capacity to monitor, quarantine and supervise the establishments** to ensure that they run effectively.

At the national level, strong policies have also been developed to encourage more pig farms to upgrade their practices to become high-level biosecurity establishments. With time, these policies should drive more pig farms to join the network of high-level biosecurity establishments so they can operate with limited restrictions.





Intermediate indicator 1.3b
**CAPACITY-BUILDING
 ACTIVITIES
 ON ASF CONTROL**

**GF-TADs ONLINE COURSE
 ON ASF PREPAREDNESS**

Regional online learning courses on ASF preparedness were introduced in four regions: Europe (in English, 36 countries, April 2020), the Balkan region (in Serbian, 8 countries, July 2020), Asia and the Pacific (in English, 27 countries, July 2020) and the Americas (in English and Spanish, 38 countries, August 2020). **Each course was adapted to the regional context.** In 2020, 1,890 participants from 101 countries attended online training and 986 participants completed the full course.

Aimed at both private and official veterinarians (at central and field level), the tutored course is designed to cover 15 hours of self-paced study over a duration of four weeks and is structured as follows.

The course opens with **a live interactive webinar**, where trainees meet their trainers and are introduced to the course, and to ASF. Trainees then **progress through seven interactive online modules**, enriched with videos, photographs and other graphical materials, self-test questions and links to resource materials. During the course, expert trainers are available through a **discussion forum** to answer questions from the trainees, and to lead interactive discussions. Towards the end of



✓ **18**
webinars

✓ **986**
participants
completed the full course

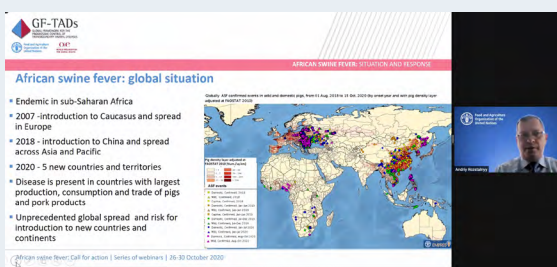
the course, a second live interactive webinar allows trainees to discuss issues raised during the course **in more detail. All trainees must complete a comprehensive assessment and complete all the coursework.** Successful trainees are provided with a certificate, and records of completion are passed to the trainees' Veterinary Services. For those participants who have limited Internet access, the course includes the option to download course materials for offline study.

After studying this course, participants are able to:

- **describe** the global **significance of ASF**;
- **recognise** the **clinical signs of ASF**;
- **explain** which **samples** should be taken to enable **laboratory diagnosis** of ASF;
- **explain how to conduct an investigation** into an outbreak of ASF;
- **explain how to adapt on-farm biosecurity** on holdings to minimise the risk of introduction of ASF;
- **describe** the most important **control measures** that **should be implemented** in the event of an outbreak of ASF in **domestic pigs**;
- **explain the role of wild boar in the transmission of ASF.**

Upcoming improvements

- Translation of the course into other languages (Russian and French) with new courses scheduled for 2021.
- Development of a stand-alone online two-hour module targeting hunters involved in the control of ASF in infected countries.
- Development of a two-hour stand-alone module on ASF that is freely accessible and available for anyone to follow at any time.
- Development of a series of eight educational videos on routine ASF tasks in pigs and wild boar (e.g. clinical examination, sampling).
- Adaptation of the module content for face-to-face training (PPTs, exercises, reading materials).



Intermediate outcome 1.4.

IMPROVED CAPACITY TO CONDUCT RISK COMMUNICATION

Since there is no approved vaccine for ASF, efficient risk communication becomes vital to highlight how different actors can contribute meaningfully to limit the spread of the disease. This requires communication messages to be targeted and tailored to specific audiences to create awareness, change behaviour and encourage good practices to prevent ASF.

The FAO office for Europe and Central Asia has developed a template for the development of leaflets for ASF awareness in a fully editable format. This allows Veterinary Services and other institutions to quickly adapt leaflets to their needs (e.g. translate text, add logos, change pictures). The materials are available online in several European languages.

The OIE and FAO have coordinated communication activities at regional level. In South-East Asia, the OIE Subregional Representation (SRR-SEA) and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) have worked together to identify and target the right audience. While the OIE has focused on high-level stakeholders, such as travellers

and transportation authorities (e.g. the International Air Transport Association), FAO RAP has engaged in communication at field level, with the main intent of spreading biosecurity messages. A short, animated film, *Biosecurity is Key to Stop African Swine Fever - Be a Champion Farmer!* was released in 2020, translated into multiple languages and distributed across the whole Asia and the Pacific region.

In 2020, both OIE SRR-SEA and FAO RAP conducted virtual risk communication activities with the goal of training stakeholders and collecting feedback to better understand the obstacles to spreading messages in the field. In this regard, FAO RAP, in conjunction with the OIE and academia, conducted a risk communication training course primarily aimed at Veterinary Authorities. The training was based on the *FAO Regional Risk Communication Guide*. FAO RAP will build on this activity in 2021 by developing new online risk communication modules. FAO RAP will also help country offices improve their risk communication strategies and develop sound communication/marketing plans.





Intermediate indicator 1.4. COMMUNICATION TOOLS

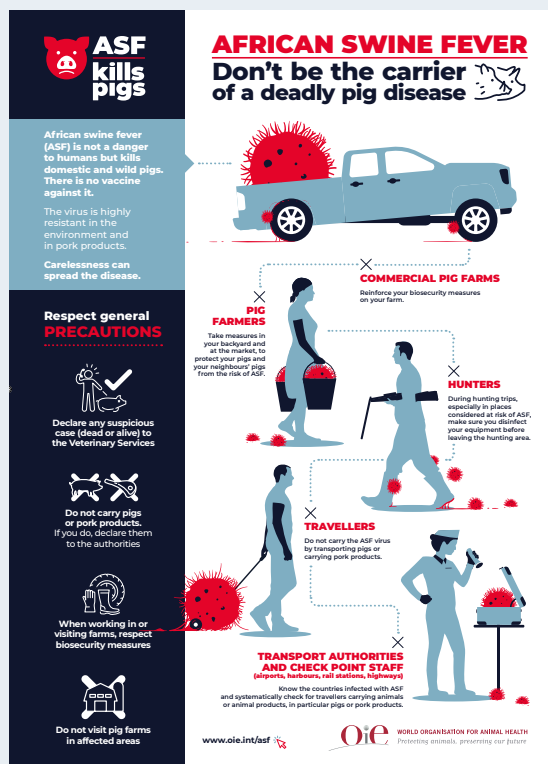
THE 'ASF KILLS PIGS' COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

To support countries and key stakeholders, the OIE has created the 'ASF Kills Pigs' awareness campaign. **The general communication objective of this campaign is to ensure that all those at risk of disseminating the disease know what precautions to take to prevent its further spread.** Hunters, small pig farmers and large commercial pig producers, as well as travellers and the transport industry, are called upon to play an active role in preventing this deadly pig disease and to avoid becoming carriers. The campaign has been used by more than 60 countries and translated into 16 languages.

Campaign materials are available [here](#).

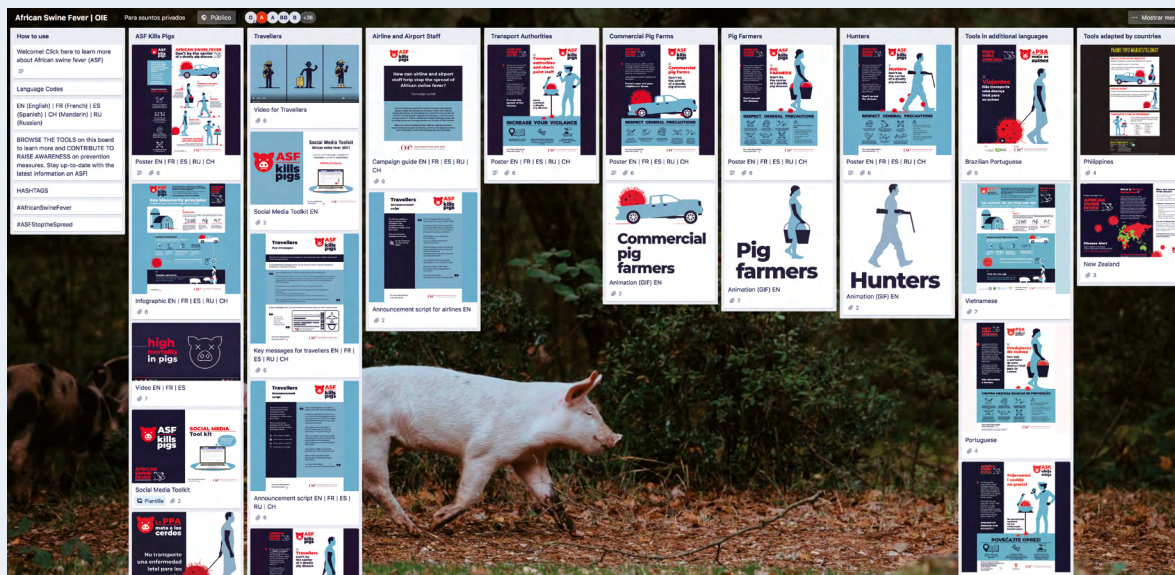
Following on from the initial phase of the campaign, the OIE is currently working jointly with FAO to enlarge the scope of the campaign by developing new communication materials on the topics of biosecurity, surveillance and early detection, and control measures. This next phase in the campaign is aimed at a global audience, and communication staff at FAO regional offices have been instrumental in providing feedback from a regional perspective on the suitability of the campaign material in development. This second phase aims to ensure the success of the campaign among a wider audience. Given the constraints of

the COVID-19 restrictions in place in 2020, the OIE and FAO held virtual events and used various digital platforms to communicate information around the topic of ASF.

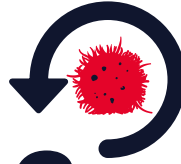


✓ **60**
countries

✓ **16**
languages



OBJECTIVE 2



Establish an effective coordination and cooperation framework for the global control of ASF

Experiences have shown that attempting to control ASF at country level is not likely to be successful and sustainable unless national efforts are part of a coordinated regional approach embedded in a global framework.

The effective implementation of ASF national control programmes strongly depends on good inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels. Regional platforms facilitate the sharing of recommendations and best practices so that they can be integrated into national control strategies. Regional cooperation motivates countries, encourages them to support each other, facilitates knowledge exchange and builds capacity. Successful implementation of national and regional strategies requires the engagement of interested parties from all sectors in order to achieve a sense of cohesion, empowerment and inter-dependence at national, regional and global levels.

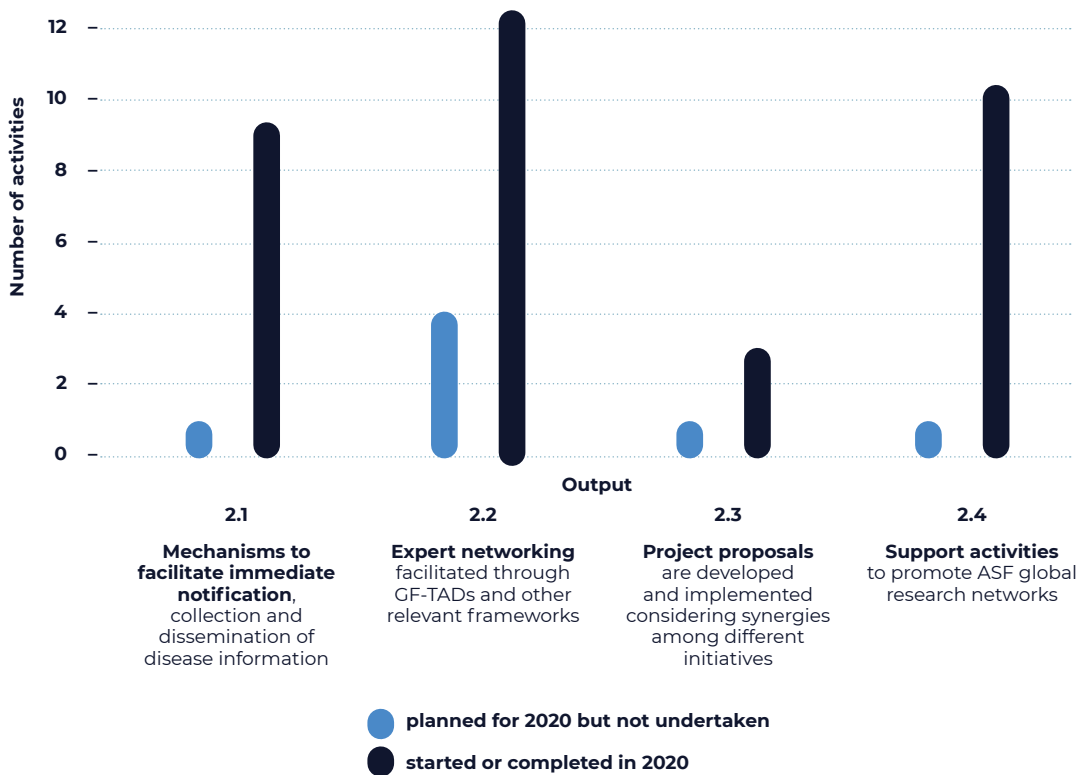
The expected outcome of the activities conducted under this objective is the improvement of national and regional coordination through:

- a) the creation of mechanisms to improve disease notification and the collection and dissemination of disease information;
- b) the improvement of frameworks for facilitating expert networking and the sharing of best practices;
- c) the development and implementation of projects;
- d) the promotion of research networks.



In 2020, 42 activities were planned under this objective. The Global Initiative output indicators are shown in Graph 2.

Graph 2. 2020 activities (outputs) under Objective 2 of the Global Initiative



A thermal imager can be used to monitor pig condition



Intermediate outcome 2.1.
DISEASE INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER, IS ACCURATE, UP TO DATE AND READILY ACCESSIBLE

African swine fever is present and continues to spread in Africa, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

- **In Europe**, the first incursion of Genotype II was reported **in 2007**. Since then, many countries in the region have notified the OIE of the first occurrence of the disease (via OIE-WAHIS), namely, Hungary, Bulgaria and Belgium in 2018, Slovakia in 2019, and Serbia, Greece and Germany in 2020.
- **In Asia and the Pacific**, China (People's Republic of) notified the presence of the disease for the first time **in 2018**, followed by Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong (SAR-PRC), Korea (Dem. People's Rep.), Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Korea (Rep. of), Timor-Leste and Indonesia in 2019. More recently, in 2020, Papua New Guinea and India reported the first



incursion. The disease remains endemic in most Sub-Saharan African countries.

During this period, **the disease continued to spread**, mainly in Africa, Europe and Asia. Despite their efforts, **only a few countries** (Belgium and the Czech Republic) **have managed to eliminate the disease from their territories**.

ASF remains a risk for ASF-free countries and regions, including the Americas, where the disease has not been detected. In this context, **the GF-TADs mechanism and the Global Initiative play an important role in enabling regional alliances to prevent transboundary animal diseases**.

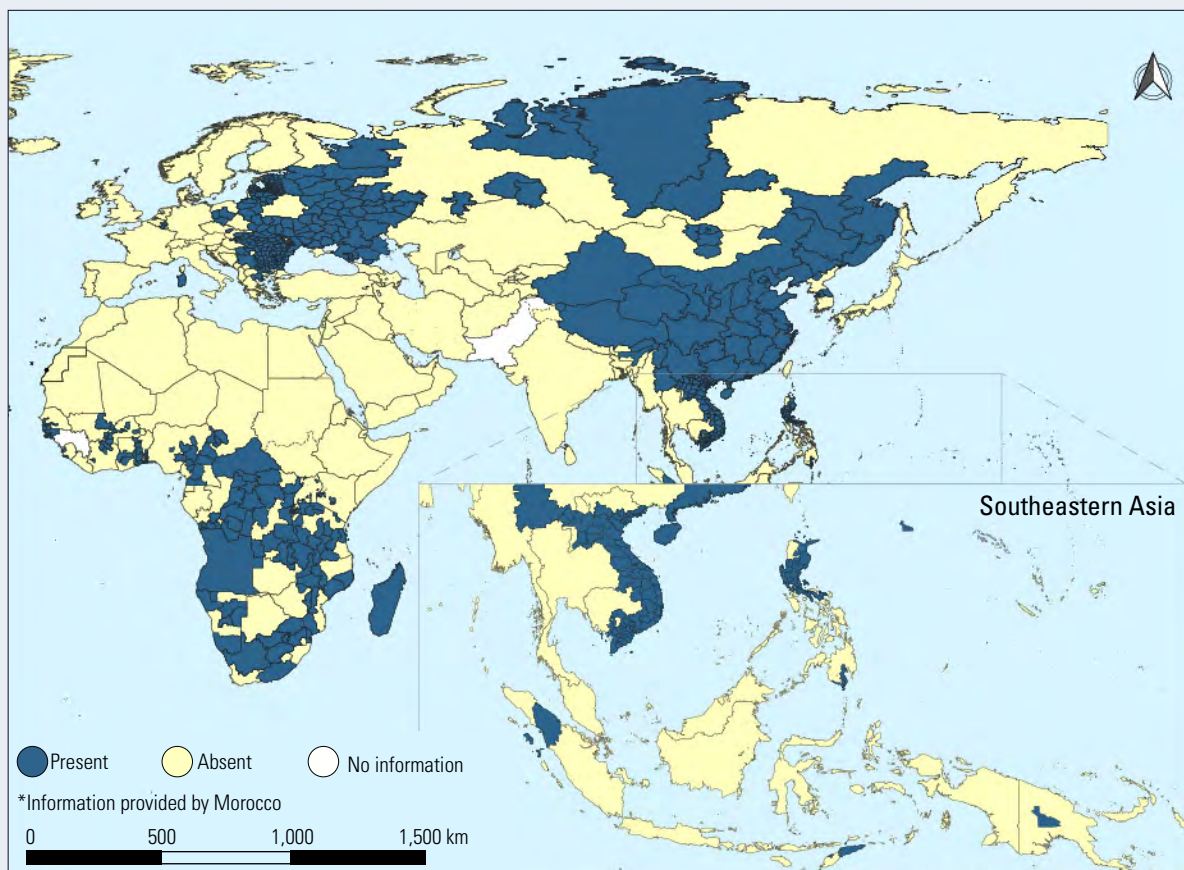


Fig. 1. Global situation of ASF officially reported during 2016–2020

Source: OIE. (2020). - OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS) 2020 map, modified to comply with UN, 2020. Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties

Intermediate outcome 2.2.

EFFECTIVE REGIONAL/GLOBAL EXPERT NETWORKS STRENGTHEN INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

One of the factors identified by the OIE and FAO as being key to achieving sustainable ASF control is the creation of an intelligence framework to share disease control information effectively. This is being achieved through the creation of regional Standing Groups of Experts (SGEs) for ASF and by promoting inter-sectoral cooperation.

SGEs were an initiative of GF-TADS Europe, and they have proved to be an important structure in gathering

decision-makers and experts together to coordinate regional efforts and define best practices. This enables the disease to be addressed in a collaborative, transparent and harmonised way.

In addition to the SGE-ASF in Europe, SGEs ASF have now been established in Asia and the Pacific and in the Americas. Progress has also been made in creating an SGE-ASF in Africa.



Output indicator 2.2.a.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL STANDING GROUPS OF EXPERTS ESTABLISHED AND ACTIVE

Europe

The SGE-ASF for Europe was established in 2014 after the emergence of ASF in several European countries. It has proved the ideal framework for discussing common and harmonised mitigation measures based on scientific and technical grounds. The SGE-ASF experts' field missions to affected countries have contributed to the development of sound technical control strategies.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 15th meeting of the SGE-ASF for Europe, which was due to be held in Slovakia, took place as a teleconference on 6 May 2020. Thirty-one European countries participated, and representatives of the SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific also attended.

More details on SGE-ASF15 can be found at:
<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/events/sge-asf15-15th-meeting-of-the-standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

**Regional Standing group of Experts
for ASF activities**

Europe
since 2015

<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads-europe/standing-groups-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

The 16th meeting of the SGE-ASF, which was due to be held in Hungary, also took place as a teleconference, on 23 November 2020. Twenty-eight European countries participated, as did representatives of the SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific and the SFE-ASF for the Americas, bringing the total number of participants to over 70. The participating Members had the opportunity to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on ASF management. The European Commission and FAO gave an update on the ASF situation in America, Europe, Asia and the Balkans. FAO presented on the main initiatives and activities on ASF in the region. Serbia and Germany gave an overview of their insights into disease management, and EFSA highlighted the activities currently being carried out under its mandate.

More details on SGE-ASF16 can be found at:
<https://rr-europe.oie.int/en/events/sge-asf16-16th-meeting-of-the-standing-group-of-experts-on-african-swine-fever-in-europe/>

✓ **16 SGE ASF meetings**
physical or virtual, gathering Members and observer countries and experts

✓ **12 GF-TADS experts' missions**
on ASF publicity available online

✓ **1 e-depository**
to share quality technical and communication materials developed by international organisations, the European Commission and Members

Asia and the Pacific

The 4th meeting of the SGE-ASF for Asia and the Pacific, which was due to be held in Korea (Rep. of), took place as a teleconference on 21 April 2020. Participants included representatives of Veterinary Services from across Asia and the Pacific and invited representatives from both the SGE-ASF for Europe and the SGE-ASF for the Americas. The topics covered by the presentations included: regional experiences of managing the disease; outbreak management planning; the implementation of control measures in China and Vietnam; surveillance and control of ASF in wild

boar in the Republic of Korea; and lessons learnt in Japan from recent experiences with classical swine fever in wild boar. The presentations provided an epidemiological picture across the region. Representatives from the SGE-ASF for Europe also gave presentations: Russia shared their latest information and Belgium shared their experience with ASF control in wild boars.

More details on SGE-ASF4 can be found at: <https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/events/meeting-of-sge-on-asf-for-asia/>

**Regional Standing group of Experts
for ASF activities**

**Asia and
the Pacific**
since 2019

<https://rr-asia.oie.int/en/projects/asf/>

✓ **5 SGE-ASF
meetings**

physical or virtual, gathering
Members and observer countries
and experts

✓ **4 meetings**
thematic regional
coordination

on ASF publicity available on line

✓ **10 sessions
available online**

of series of webinars

✓ **1 e-depository**

of awareness material shared by
Members



Americas

The SGE-ASF for the Americas was established at the 10th Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs in September 2019 and held its 1st meeting in December of that same year. The Group, which is chaired by Canada, includes regional representatives from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Cuba, Jamaica, the United States of America, international partner organisations, and the Ibero-American Pig Farming Organization (OIPORC), which represents the private sector.

The assessment implemented made it possible to determine that there is significant variability in the capacity of Veterinary Services to deal with emerging animal diseases in the region.

Since its creation, the SGE-ASF for the Americas has held two meetings focused on the risk of disease incursion and border control. Both meetings were attended by representatives of the Veterinary Services and border control authorities of the participating countries. It became evident at these meetings that there is a need to strengthen coordination if ASF is to be prevented from entering the region.

More details on the SGE-ASF and other GF-TADs activities in the region can be found at: <https://rr-americas.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads/gf-tads-events/>

**Regional Standing group of Experts for
ASF activities**

Americas
since 2019

<https://rr-americas.oie.int/en/projects/gf-tads/gf-tads-events/?1057=1159&page-nb=1>

✓ **2 SGE-ASF
meetings**

Sharing of information on ASF preparedness and risk assessment by representative from private sector and five countries with huge by industry

Africa

In the absence of a formal SGE in the Africa region, AU-IBAR, FAO, ILRI and the OIE have established a regional task force to provide technical guidance, facilitate discussions on ASF control activities in Africa, and ensure alignment with the Global Initiative. The task force has a regional focus, and it is composed of two ASF experts from each partner organisation. It will steer the revision of the regional ASF control strategy, which was jointly prepared by AU-IBAR, FAO and ILRI in 2017.

Technical Working Groups have also been activated at sub-regional level in Eastern Africa and in West and Central Africa.

The East Africa Regional Animal Health Network encompasses a sub-regional ASF Technical Working Group aiming at facilitating ASF control activities and information exchange among different stakeholders in East Africa. The Group's first meeting in over three years was held on 27 August 2020, organised by FAO. The

meeting was attended by ASF experts from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Other Experts from AU-IBAR, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, ILRI, and the OIE also attended. Participants validated the terms of reference (TOR) of the Group, updated its list of members, and affirmed their commitment to supporting the implementation of the Global Initiative.

In West Africa, the regional network for epidemio-surveillance systems (RESEPI-WA) and the regional network for veterinary laboratories (RESOLAB-WA), which include surveillance systems and diagnostic laboratories from 15 ECOWAS Member States, are actively coordinating proficiency testing and ASF preparedness and contingency planning, with the support of FAO. Within the networks successful countries' experiences such as outbreak control (Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) and private sector engagement for risk management (Nigeria) are discussed among representatives.



Intermediate outcome 2.4.

ASF GLOBAL RESEARCH IS ACTIVE AND COORDINATED TO ADDRESS SCIENTIFIC NEEDS

The global control of ASF also requires coordinated research at international and regional levels to contribute to new and improved ASF control strategies. Research laboratories, scientific institutions, and funding partners are requested to coordinate actions to maximise funding and accelerate research that can contribute to the development of new control tools. Development of better diagnostic tests and effective and safe vaccines for domestic and wild pigs are more important than ever.

The OIE is hosting the secretariat of the STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium, which is a network of public and private R&D programme owners and managers aiming to coordinate research

on animal health at the international level and to improve the control tools for a list of priority diseases, including ASF. The consortium relies on working groups of experts to deliver draft research roadmaps to address existing gaps in disease control strategies. In the case of ASF, with the support of the Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA), the consortium has created three research roadmaps for the development of:

- a) control strategies;
- b) diagnostic tests;
- c) vaccines. It also monitors research advances on key research gaps from 68 ASF-related research projects.

Roadmaps STAR-IDAZ.





Output indicator 2.4.a
**NETWORK AND FORUMS
THAT ARE ACTIVE
FROM INTERACTION
AND EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION WITHIN
THE RESEARCH
COMMUNITY**

**GLOBAL AFRICAN SWINE
FEVER RESEARCH
ALLIANCE (GARA)**

The Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) is a coordinated global ASF research alliance. **It aims to establish and sustain global research partnerships that will generate scientific knowledge and tools to contribute to the successful prevention, control and, where feasible, eradication of ASF.**

The goals of the Alliance are to:

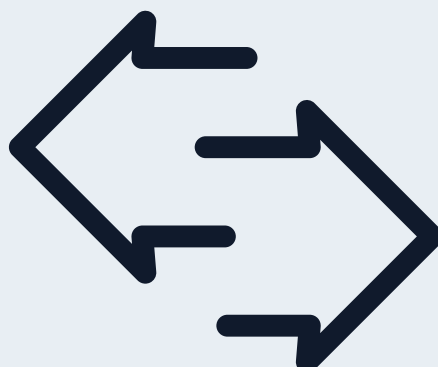
- identify research opportunities and facilitate collaborations within the Alliance;
- conduct strategic and multi-disciplinary research to better understand ASF;
- determine social and economic drivers and impact of ASF;
- develop novel and improved tools to support the prevention and control of ASF;
- determine the impact of ASF prevention and control tools;
- serve as a communication and technology sharing gateway for the global ASF research community and stakeholders.

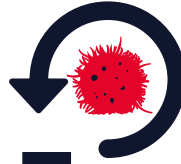
The 2020 GARA scientific meeting was to be held in Uganda in August 2020. However, due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person meeting was postponed until August 2021 and a virtual event was held instead. Keynote speakers gave virtual presentations at the meeting,



which took place from 24 to 25 August 2020, hosted by the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The virtual sessions included sessions on the ASF epidemiological situations in Asia (Dr D. Pfeiffer), Africa (Dr M. Dione) and Europe (Dr A. Viltorp). There were also updates on diagnostics (Dr S. Blome), next-generation gene sequencing (Dr J. Forth), and the latest vaccine developments, including developments in both live attenuated vaccines (Dr M. Borca) and subunit vaccines (Dr R. Portugal). In this difficult year, these virtual sessions provided an opportunity for the global ASF research community to connect and to share updates with stakeholders. Recordings of all the sessions are available on YouTube.

The 2021 GARA scientific meeting is scheduled to be held from 24 to 26 August 2021 in Kampala, Uganda, with special focus on bridging the knowledge gaps with scientific information and tools.





OBJECTIVE 3

Facilitate business continuity

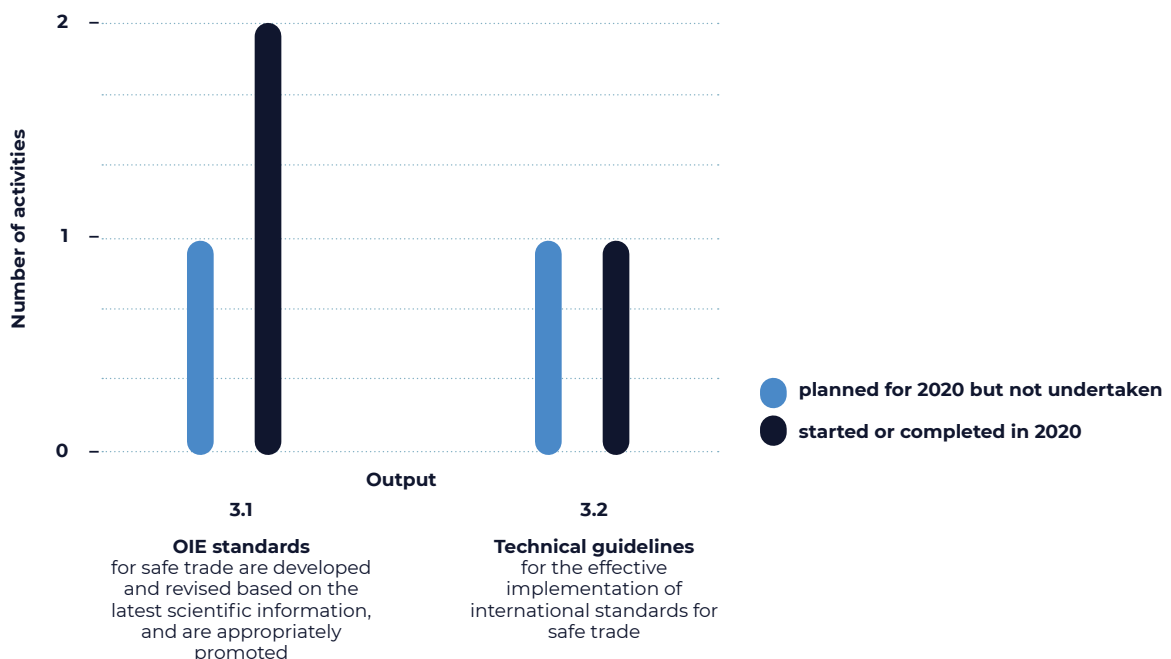
Members that trade in pigs and pig commodities should include provisions for managing risks to business continuity in their preparedness and control plans, making use of science-based international standards. Business continuity depends on the correct application of international standards and will require a strong partnership between the swine industry, Veterinary Services and trading partners.

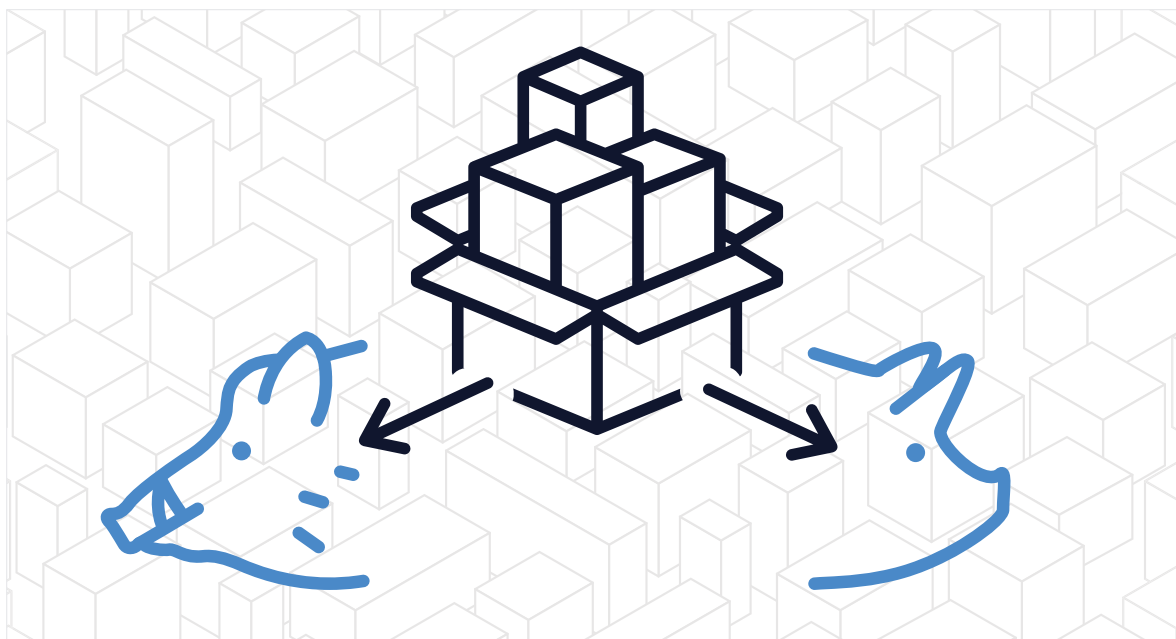
Facilitation of safe trade will contribute to reducing the overall impact of ASF. It will also help to alleviate poverty by improving the resilience of swine industries and protecting the livelihoods of pig producers in low- and middle-income countries.

The activities under this objective aim to support and promote the implementation of international standards and, therefore, at minimising the impact of ASF by ensuring that national, regional and international trade in pigs and pig products is safe. The expected outcome is the mitigation of the impact of ASF virus on trade in the swine sector, both nationally and internationally while efforts are ongoing to control and eventually eradicate the disease.

In 2020, six activities were planned under this objective. The Global Initiative output indicators are shown in Graph 3.

Graph 3. 2020 activities (outputs) under Objective 3 of the Global Initiative





Intermediate outcome 3.2.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ARE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY

The OIE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning³ and compartmentalisation' and Chapter 4.5. 'Application of compartmentalisation' provide recommendations to Members wishing to establish and maintain different subpopulations with a specific health status within their territory. Chapter 4.5. also provides a structured framework for the application and recognition of compartments. In addition, Chapter 15.1. 'Infection with African swine fever virus' covers the provisions for the determination of the ASF status of a country, zone or compartment, recommendations on ASF surveillance, and recommendations for the safe international trade of live pigs and pig products.

Resolution No. 33 of the 87th General Assembly of OIE National Delegates identified the need for Members to consider the impact of ASF incursion and manage risks to business continuity by making use of the OIE standards on zoning, compartmentalisation and risk reduction measures applicable to certain commodities that can be recognised by trading partners within certification arrangements.

A key activity to be implemented under this indicator is the promotion of the correct implementation of international standards in different forums and the development of technical guidelines to facilitate safe trade based on international standards, including guidelines on compartmentalisation.

3. For the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, 'zoning' and 'regionalisation' are considered to be synonymous. According to the *Terrestrial Code* 'zone' means a part of a country defined by the Veterinary Authority, containing an animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to an infection or infestation for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.



Intermediate indicator 3.2.a **GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS**

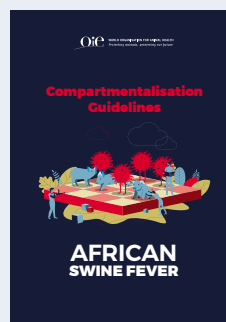
COMPARTMENTALISATION GUIDELINES

In order to better support Members in their efforts to prepare for and minimise the impact of ASF virus incursion through business continuity, the OIE has developed practical guidelines on compartmentalisation in the context of ASF. The guidelines incorporate the general principles outlined in the *Terrestrial Code*, but provide specific guidance for its practical application and international validation.

An OIE *ad hoc* Group on Compartmentalisation for African swine fever was convened by the Director General of the OIE to contribute to the development of the guidelines, in particular with regards to the supply chain, risk assessment, biosecurity and surveillance.

The guidelines detail specific requirements and provide:

- guidance on key aspects of the compartmentalisation process;
- a set of tools to facilitate the practical implementation and recognition of compartments.



The guidelines are intended to complement existing OIE standards and recommendations on ASF and compartmentalisation, while being comprehensive in themselves.

The main target audiences of these guidelines are:

- **the private sector** and **Veterinary Authorities**;
- third parties and technical service providers, such as **auditors** and **private veterinarians** involved in the implementation and maintenance of compartments;
- **policy-makers in governments and inter-governmental organisations** concerned with the animal health and pig industries.

The guidelines are available on the OIE website ([link](#)). The Spanish and French versions will be available later in 2021.





Intermediate indicator 3.2.a

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS

ASF ZONING IN PRACTICE. AN EXAMPLE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission has had risk-based control measures for ASF in place in the EU since 2014. In a relatively short space of time, **it has been able to eradicate the disease in the Czech Republic and Belgium and to limit the spread of ASF elsewhere in the EU.**

The EU has specific and complete legislation on ASF preparedness, control, diagnosis and regionalisation.³ This legislation is fully in line with OIE standards and is kept up to date on the basis of regular scientific advice provided by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the experience of EU Member Countries.

There are measures established in EU legislation that are applied where ASF is suspected or confirmed, either in holdings or in feral pigs, to prevent the spread and allow for eradication of the disease. The regionalisation approach in affected areas, through clear zone demarcation, allows the EU to adopt strict movement restrictions for pigs and pig products. These risk-based restrictions are continuously updated in line with the geographical occurrence of the disease and based on a series of objective criteria.

This approach has proven to be effective in preventing, controlling, slowing down and, in certain areas, stopping the spread of the disease.

The regionalisation approach is recognised by many of the EU's trading partners and allows both international and internal trade to continue.

This approach is embedded in a set of activities and control measures which include:

- **stamping-out of pigs** in affected holdings;
- **intervention of the experts** of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team in affected countries;
- provision of **scientific advice** from the EFSA;
- **efficient diagnostic capabilities** and technical expertise driven by the ASF-EU Reference Laboratory;
- **research on vaccine candidates;**
- **audits to verify** the correct **enforcement of EU legislation;**
- **financial support;**
- **public awareness** campaigns;
- **official checks** of personal consignments **at borders;**
- **international cooperation.**

Since the arrival of ASF in Europe in 2014, the EU has been supporting – politically, technically and financially – EU and non-EU countries in their efforts to prevent, control and eventually eradicate the disease. Some initiatives, such as the SGE-ASF in Europe (established under the umbrella of the GF-TADs), to which the European Commission actively contributes, play an important role in building closer cooperation among countries and in ensuring that this deadly disease is tackled in a collaborative, transparent and harmonised manner across Europe and at global level.

Additional information can be found at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/asf_en



3. Regionalisation in the legal context of the European Union corresponds to the application of zoning as defined in Chapter 4.4 of the *Terrestrial Code* on zoning and compartmentalisation.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION

This first annual report outlines the vision at the heart of the Global Initiative and describes the first steps taken towards achieving global ASF control within the context of the constraints of 2020.

The implementation of the Operational Plan has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. However, the pandemic has not reduced the threat of ASF. The global control of ASF requires sustained commitment and resources. In partnership with the private sector, it is necessary for governments to continue to invest in their national Veterinary Services in order to enhance their capacity to manage risks through the development and implementation of science-based national control programmes. Continued investment is also needed to enable Veterinary Services to sustain and adapt their ASF control strategies, in the face of the ongoing effects of COVID-19, which are expected to continue into 2021.

The effects of the pandemic will continue to have an impact on the implementation of ASF control activities for some time to come, especially given the continued movement restrictions, additional workload and economic pressure. In that context, the control of ASF is even more important, as it will ease the economic burden on the swine sector and the many livelihoods that depend on it. The Global Initiative will continue to steer progress and support the coordination of stakeholders at global and regional levels. To increase this capacity, FAO and the OIE will engage in the development and implementation of a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework to define and consolidate the indicators needed to track and measure progress and results.

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, joining forces to combat ASF by strengthening animal health surveillance and control systems is more important than ever. The GF-TADs mechanism will continue to offer the appropriate mechanism to support Members in their battle against ASF.

By working together, we can make the global control of ASF a reality.





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Global Control of African swine fever
A GF-TADS initiative

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