



# Global and regional FMD situation update

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*TAFS Forum Conference, 3-4 March 2026  
Cape Town, South Africa*



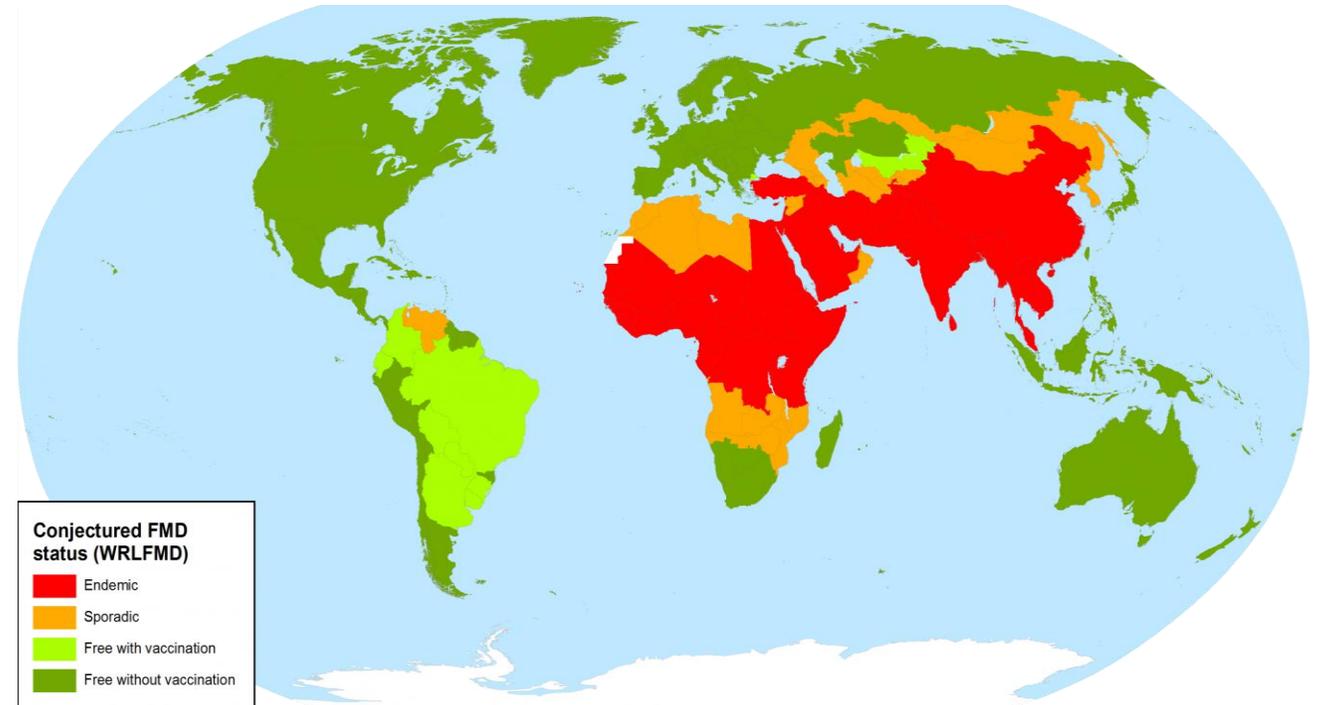


# Global FMD Situation & FAO's Activities



# Global FMD Situation

- **Europe:** FMD returned, 2025 outbreaks in Germany and Hungary involving Serotype O.
- **Southern Africa:** Outbreaks confirmed in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, and Mozambique, causing economic damage and threatening livelihoods.
- **Endemic Regions:** Asia, the Middle East, and most of Africa.
  - **Asia/Middle East:** Serotypes O, A, and Asia-1 are prevalent.
  - **Africa:** Southern African Territories (SAT 1, 2, 3) serotypes are widespread.
- **Virus Dynamics:** Serotype O is responsible for most global outbreaks, particularly in Asia and the recent European cases. Serotype C has not been detected since 2004.



Source: WRLFMD (Not updated for recent outbreaks!)

# FAO's roles

- **Global strategy implementation:** FAO promotes and monitors the Global FMD Control Strategy with WOAHA under GF-TADs, using the PCP-FMD to guide country progress.
- **Policy and regional collaboration:** With WOAHA and regional partners, FAO supports policy development and coordinated implementation of FMD control strategies.
- **Country-specific support:** Through PCP-FMD, FAO supports stepwise, risk-based approaches.
- **Risk monitoring, risk assessment and preparedness:** FAO tracks global FMD risks & develops tools to strengthen preparedness.
- **Training and capacity building:** FAO strengthens veterinary services through training, surveillance networks, and improved outbreak response capacity.
- **Vaccination and biosecurity:** FAO facilitates vaccine procurement and distribution and promotes biosecurity.
- **Emergency response and resource mobilization:** FAO provides technical support and mobilizes resources for affected countries; Mobilizes partners and resources to ensure rapid vaccine access during outbreaks.

TAFS Forum Conference, 3-4 March 2026. Cape Town, South Africa



# Early Warning & Risk Assessment

- Global monitoring through EMPRES-i and regional intelligence networks
- FMD alerts, webinars
- Risk assessment to inform preparedness and contingency planning
- Cross-border risk analysis and strain monitoring
- Technical backstopping during outbreaks and crisis situations
- Decision-support tools (e.g. PRAGMATIS, OutCost, VADEMOS, EuFMDiS, etc.)

## Risk of foot-and-mouth disease SAT2 introduction and spread in countries in the Near East and West Eurasia



### FAO ALERTS COUNTRIES IN NORTH AFRICA, WEST ASIA AND CAUCASUS TO ENHANCE PREPAREDNESS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SAT1

12 November 2025

#### Key facts:

1. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals. Although not a threat to human health, FMD severely impacts food security, livelihoods, national and international markets.
2. There are seven FMD virus serotypes (A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 and Asia1). Immunity from infection or vaccination is serotype-specific and will not provide protection against the other serotypes.
3. Clinical signs: Affected animals develop fever and blisters/sores on their feet, in the mouth, nose, throat, and hooves. Depression, loss of appetite, weight loss, lameness and drop in milk production are observed. Some animals may be subclinically infected, particularly small ruminants. Younger animals may die due to sudden heart failure.
4. Transmission is via the respiratory or oral route. Infected animals shed virus in all excretions and secretions (saliva, urine, faeces, milk). FMD commonly spreads by animal movements, but can also be spread by contaminated clothing, footwear, equipment, vehicles. The virus can survive in the environment and animal products.
5. Diagnosis: In endemic countries, suspected FMD in a newly affected area should be confirmed by a laboratory. Laboratory diagnosis is also required to determine the causative serotype. Appropriate samples for virus confirmation include vesicular fluid or epithelium.
6. Prevention: The front line defence against FMD is robust biosecurity, awareness raising and surveillance. If vaccines are available, it is critical that they are matched to the circulating strains.

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Rapid risk assessment: foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) virus serotype SAT1

Date of publication: 4 December 2025

Assessment period (data as of): 5 November - 21 November 2025

Version of the assessment: 1

Geographical coverage: North Africa, Central, South and Western Asia; and South-Eastern Europe

Objective: To rapidly assess the likelihood and impact of further spread of the FMD serotype SAT1 epidemic that was first reported in Iraq in March 2025 and provide recommendations for Members on risk mitigation. This work follows the publication of two regional alerts for FMD SAT1.

Scope: This assessment evaluates the risk of further spread of FMD serotype SAT1 within the next 3 months. Countries and territories are included in the assessment if they are adjacent or in close proximity to affected countries as follows: **Afghanistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Yemen.**

Affected countries are those in which SAT1 has been reported since March 2025, either through the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Reference Laboratory for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (WRLFMD) or through media reports citing national governments. Since the initial detection in Iraq, there have been reports from Azerbaijan, a quarantine station in Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, and Türkiye.

#### Contact

For any queries on this assessment, please contact [EMPRES-Animal-Health@fao.org](mailto:EMPRES-Animal-Health@fao.org)

#### Disclaimer

Document information: This risk assessment draws on a comprehensive review of official information, technical documents, and expert input to evaluate the risk of FMDV SAT1 infection among susceptible livestock in currently unaffected countries over a three-month horizon. The assessment separately examines the likelihood of exposure and the potential impact of an epidemic.

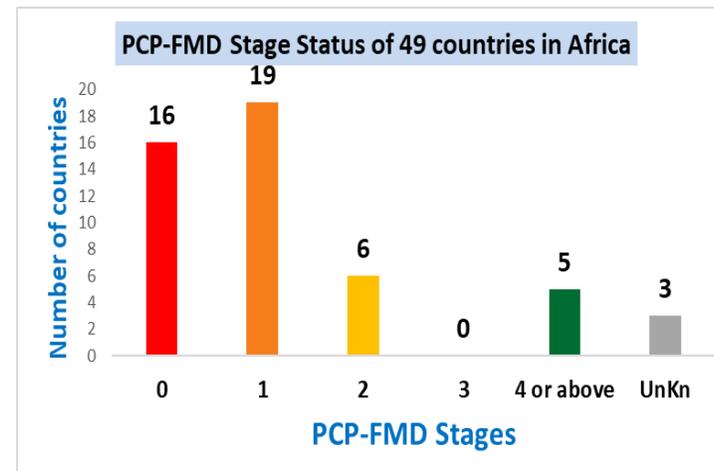
Aim of the BRR: To provide a rapid, evidence-based evaluation of the likelihood and impact of FMD serotype SAT1 introduction, raise awareness among Members, and inform the planning and implementation of risk-mitigation measures.

Statement: This assessment reflects information available as of 21 November 2025 and may be updated as new findings emerge from field investigations, laboratory analyses, and epidemiological studies.



# Capacity Building and Technical Support to Countries

- Developed regional FMD control strategies for East & West Africa
- Promoted & monitored the FMD Global Control Strategy
- Working on a revised Global FMD control strategy
- Support countries advancing PCP
  - Development of national control plans
  - South Africa: Technical support offered in development & implementation of national strategy
- Published guidelines for FMD and other TADs:
  - Economic analysis guidelines
  - Practical surveillance guidelines
  - PCP-FMD Hub on VLC – a repository of resources for PCP-FMD practitioners
- Capacity building - Trainings & webinars
- FAO under DTRA-funded project, in 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone):
  - conducted animal mobility, risk assessment and socio-economic impact studies
  - strengthened capacity of field and laboratory staff



The Progressive Control Pathway for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Hub

0 1 2 3 4

**FMD and the current global situation | La fièvre aphteuse et la situation mondiale actuelle**

**Key resources for developing FMD control strategies | Ressources clés pour l'élaboration de stratégies de lutte contre la fièvre aphteuse**

**FMD epidemiology and economics | Épidémiologie et économie de la fièvre aphteuse**

**Sampling and Laboratory | Échantillonnage et laboratoire**



# Global and Regional Coordination



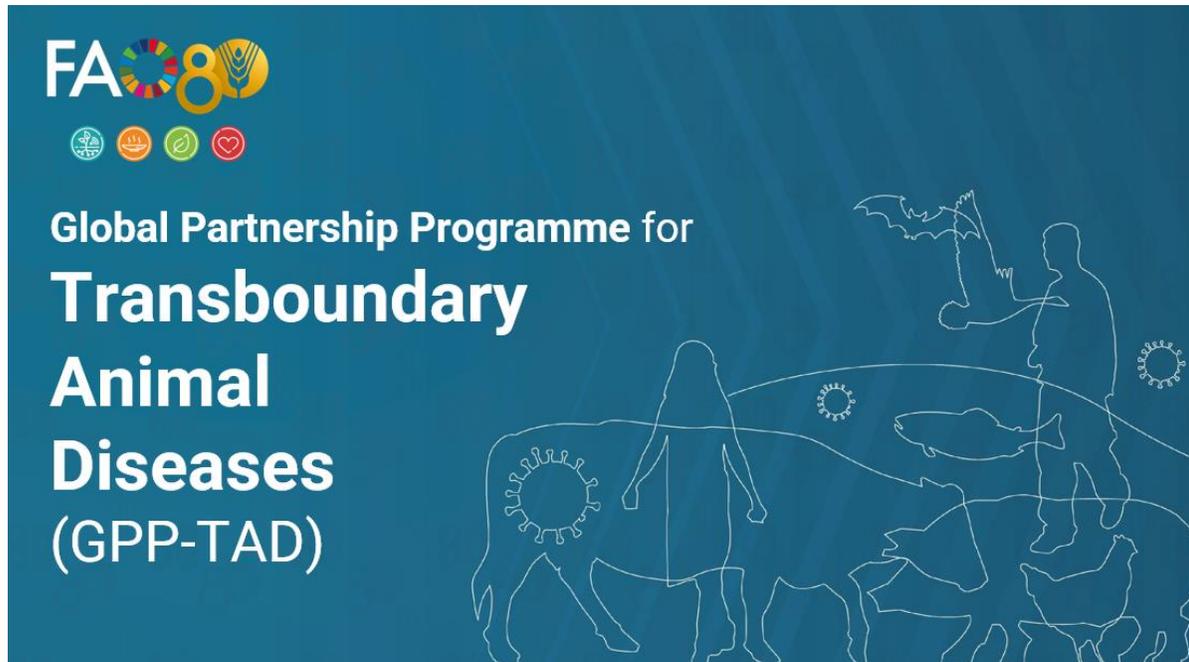
## For regional support FAO:

- Convenes regional preparedness exercises to strengthen coordinated FMD response.
- Launches joint emergency control projects with national authorities to contain outbreaks and limit spread.
- Co-organizes GF-TADs Regional Roadmap meetings to align strategies and review risk.
- Supports national PCP-FMD workshops with partners to strengthen vaccination and preparedness.
- Facilitates cross-border coordination meetings to harmonize surveillance and control efforts.



# GPP-TAD

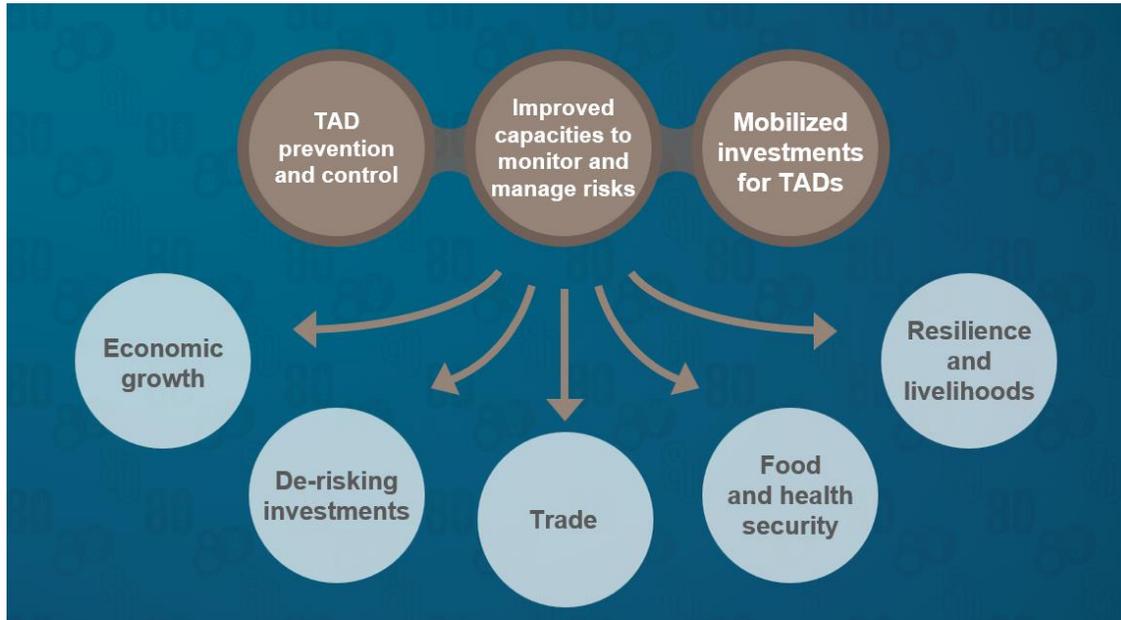
## A new initiative



## Objectives

- **Achieve national, regional and global progress in the prevention and control of TADs** through locally owned, science-based action and enhanced cooperation.
- **Protect animal, human, and ecosystem health and businesses and investments** by improving capacities to monitor and reduce animal disease risks along value chains.
- **Mobilize collective investment** — uniting governments, the private sector, and partners to finance innovation and position TADs management as a global public good.

# A new way of working



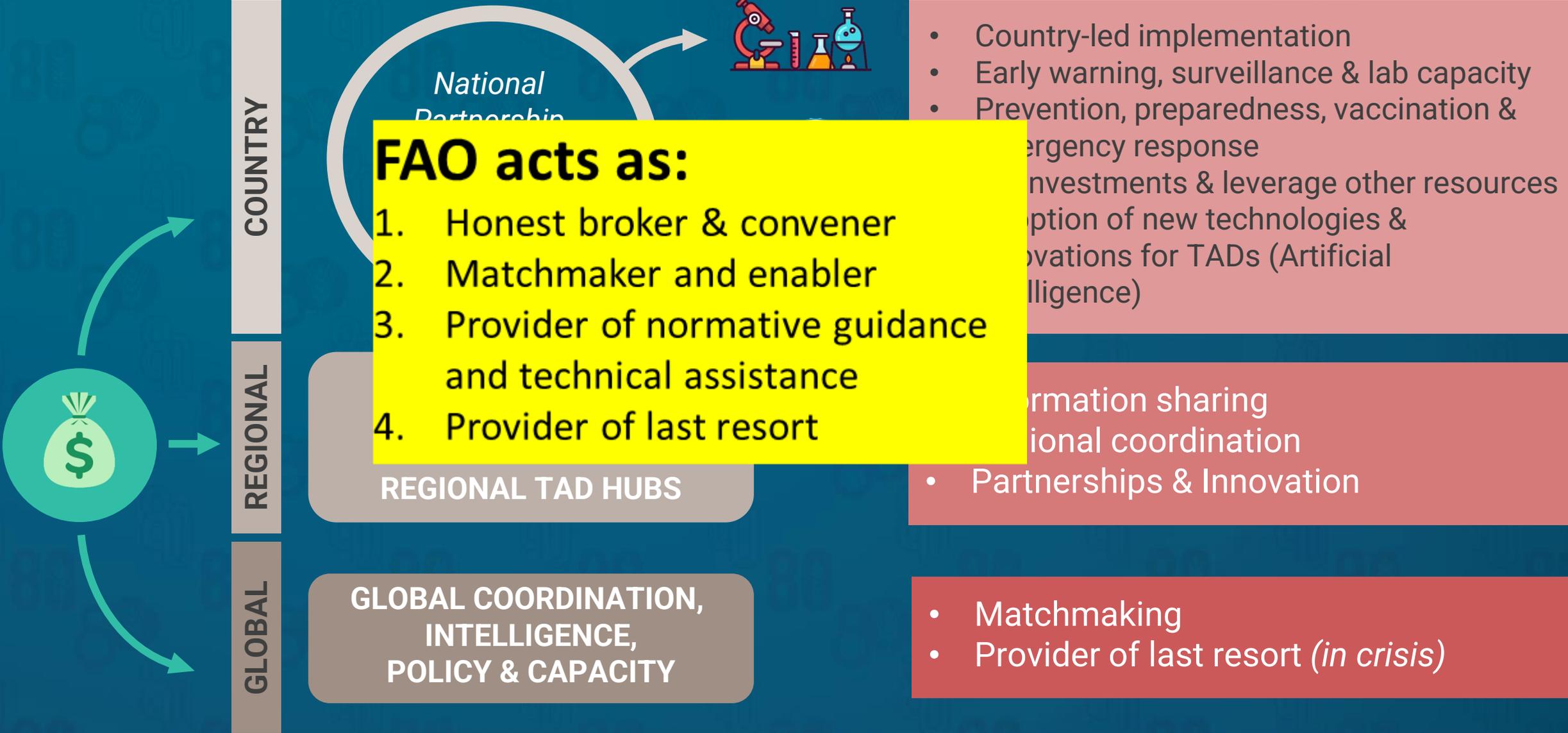
## Before

- Dependent mainly on one single donor
- Donor-driven
- FAO = implementing force
- Disconnected from the private sector and other stakeholders

## NEW 4-year programme:

- Country-driven & country context-specific
- Countries implement (with technical support by FAO and implementing partners)
- Multi-partners
- In partnership with producers, private sector & financial institutions

# Country-owned, country-led



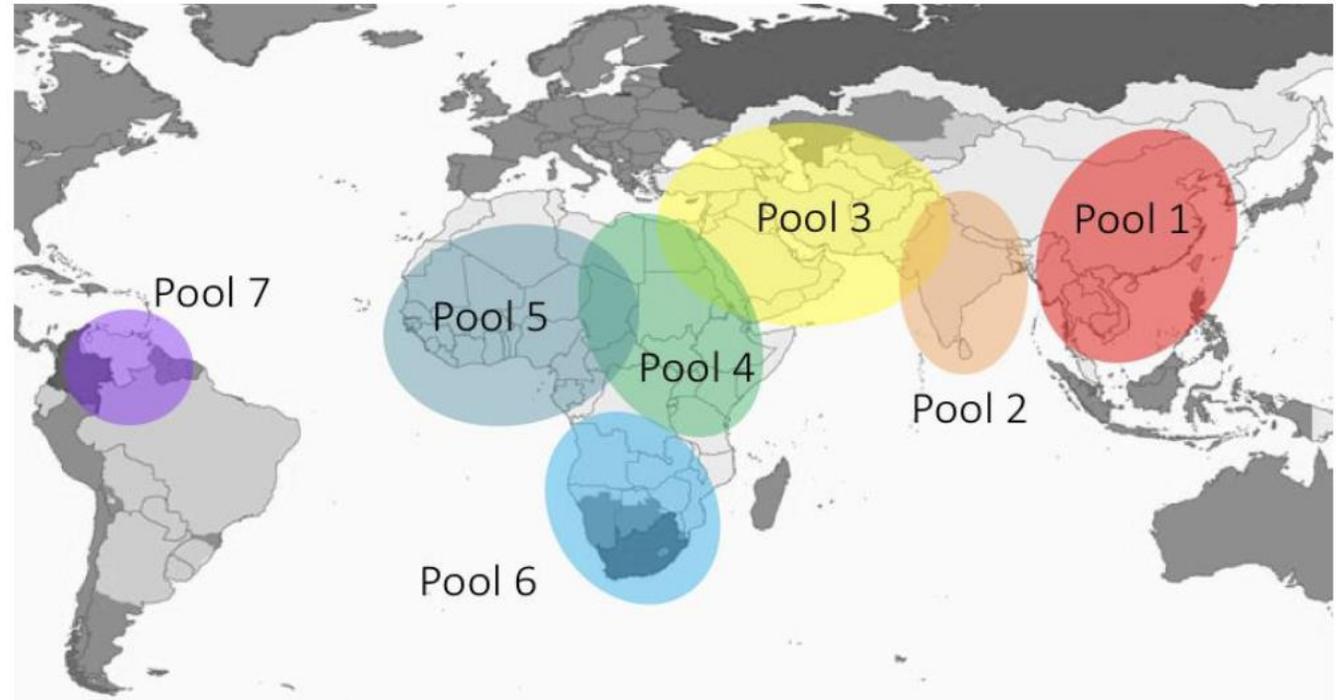


# FMD Situation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)



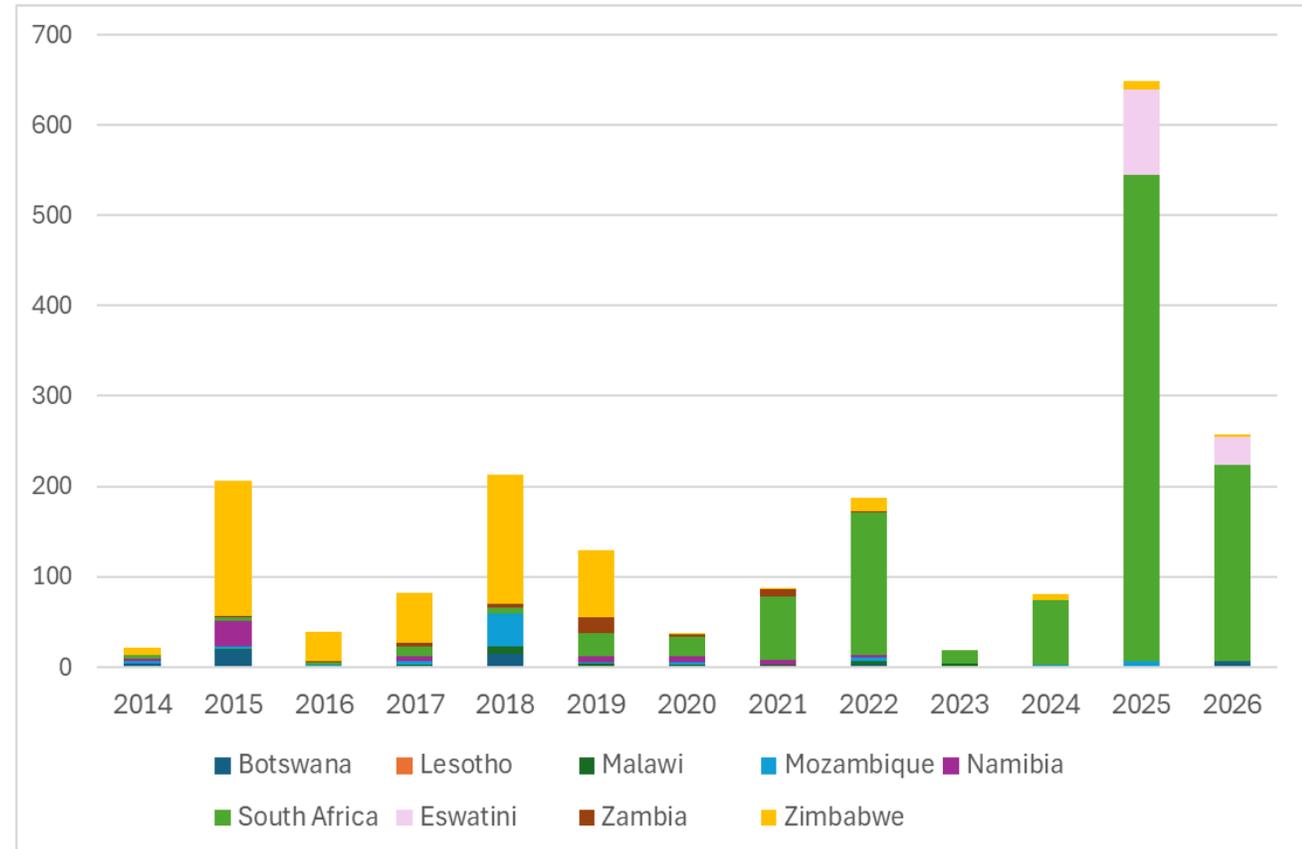
# FMD Virus Pools and Transboundary Risk in Southern Africa

- Southern Africa hosts Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) virus Pool 6.
- Transboundary animal movements associated with trade have occasionally led to incursions from Pool 4.
- A recent instance includes the introduction of FMD serotype O into northern Zambia.



# FMD situation in Southern Africa: 2014-2026

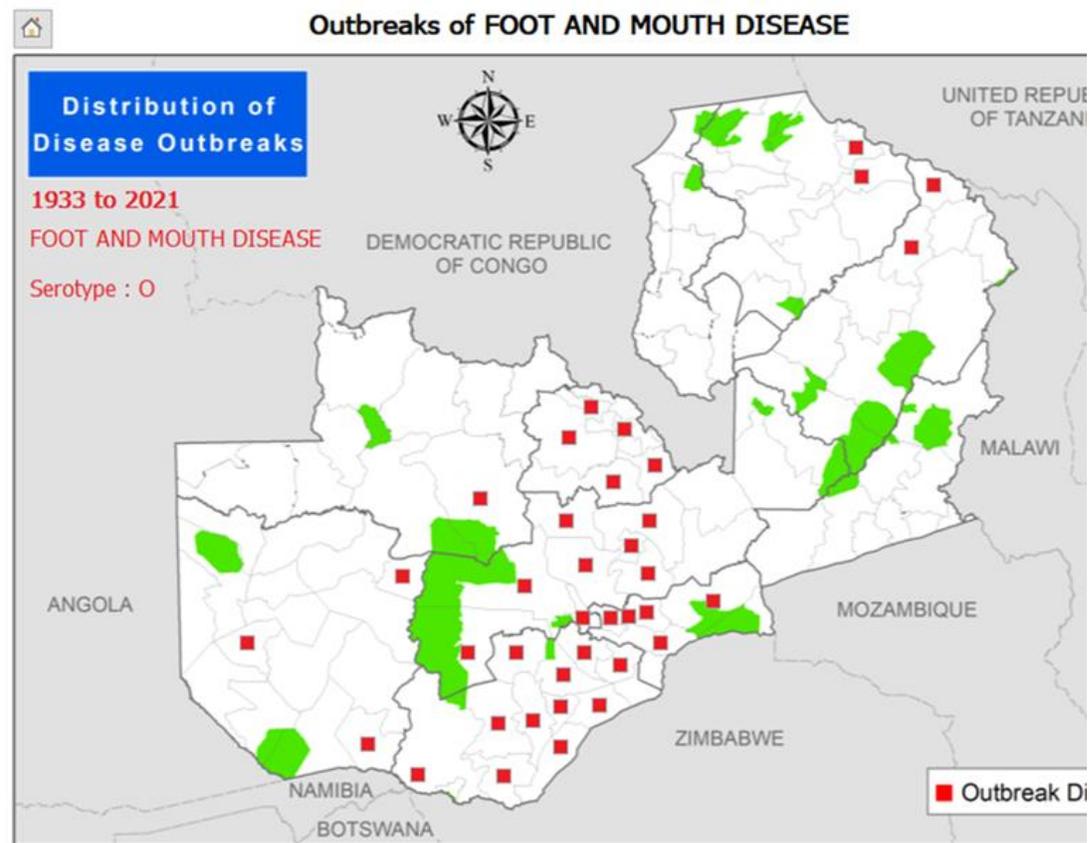
- Since 2014, there has been a rise in the incidence of FMD, with all SADC countries reporting at least one outbreak to date.
- From 2018, South Africa has experienced a renewed increase in FMD outbreaks.
- The FMD status in Angola remains uncertain, likely due to insufficient reporting.



# FMD Serotype O Incursion in Southern Africa

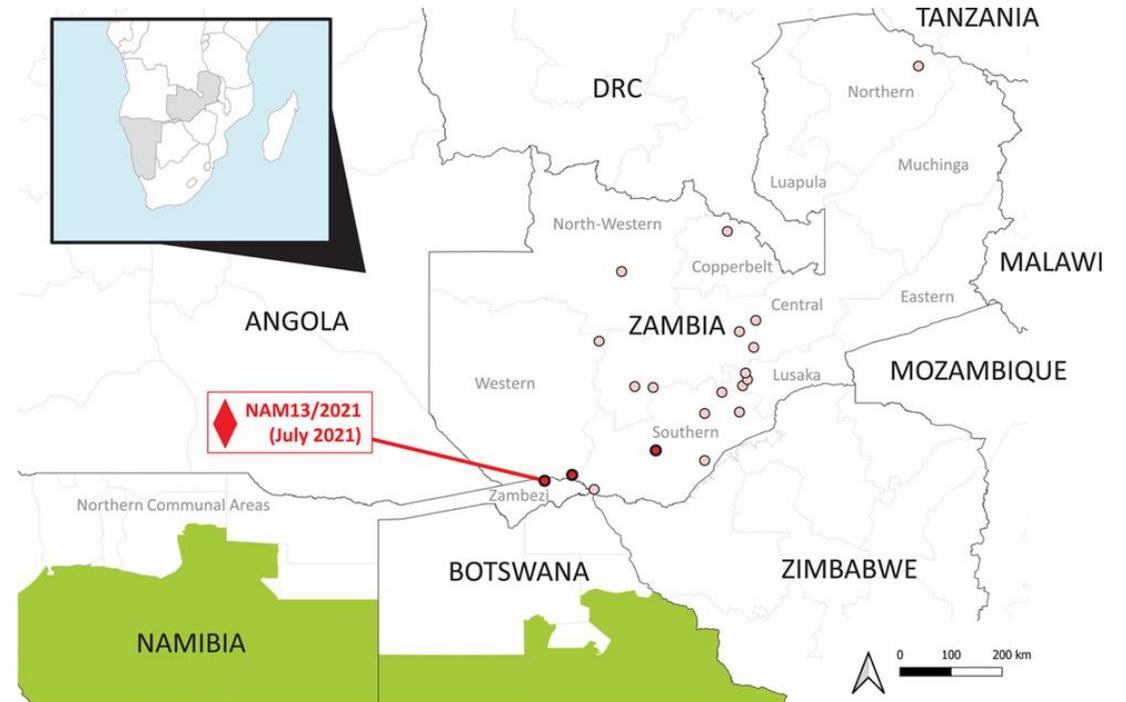
- The initial outbreak was identified in Chisamba district, in April 2018.
- The virus was classified as Type O (Topotype EA-2) by both BVI and WRLFMD.
- By 2019, the virus had spread to Monze and Mazabuka districts in the Southern Province.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the virus expanded to most provinces, including Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, and Western.
- Ultimately, the virus reached Kazungula district around March 2020.

*NB: Prior to 2018, outbreaks due to serotype O were restricted to the northern province of Zambia (Banda et al)*



# FMD Serotype O Incursion in Southern Africa cont:

- Incursion reports in Namibia were documented in June 2021.
- The sequences shared the highest nucleotide identity (99.5%) with FMDV isolates obtained from western Zambia.
- Malawi confirmed serotype O infection in March 2022 within the Mchinji district.
- Mozambique reported serotype O infection in May 2022.
- Currently, serotype O has not extended beyond these four countries.



# FMD Situation Update – SADC Region (Feb 2026)

- In 2026, six countries experienced outbreaks: Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho.
- Of these, all except Botswana and Lesotho, had also reported outbreaks in 2025.

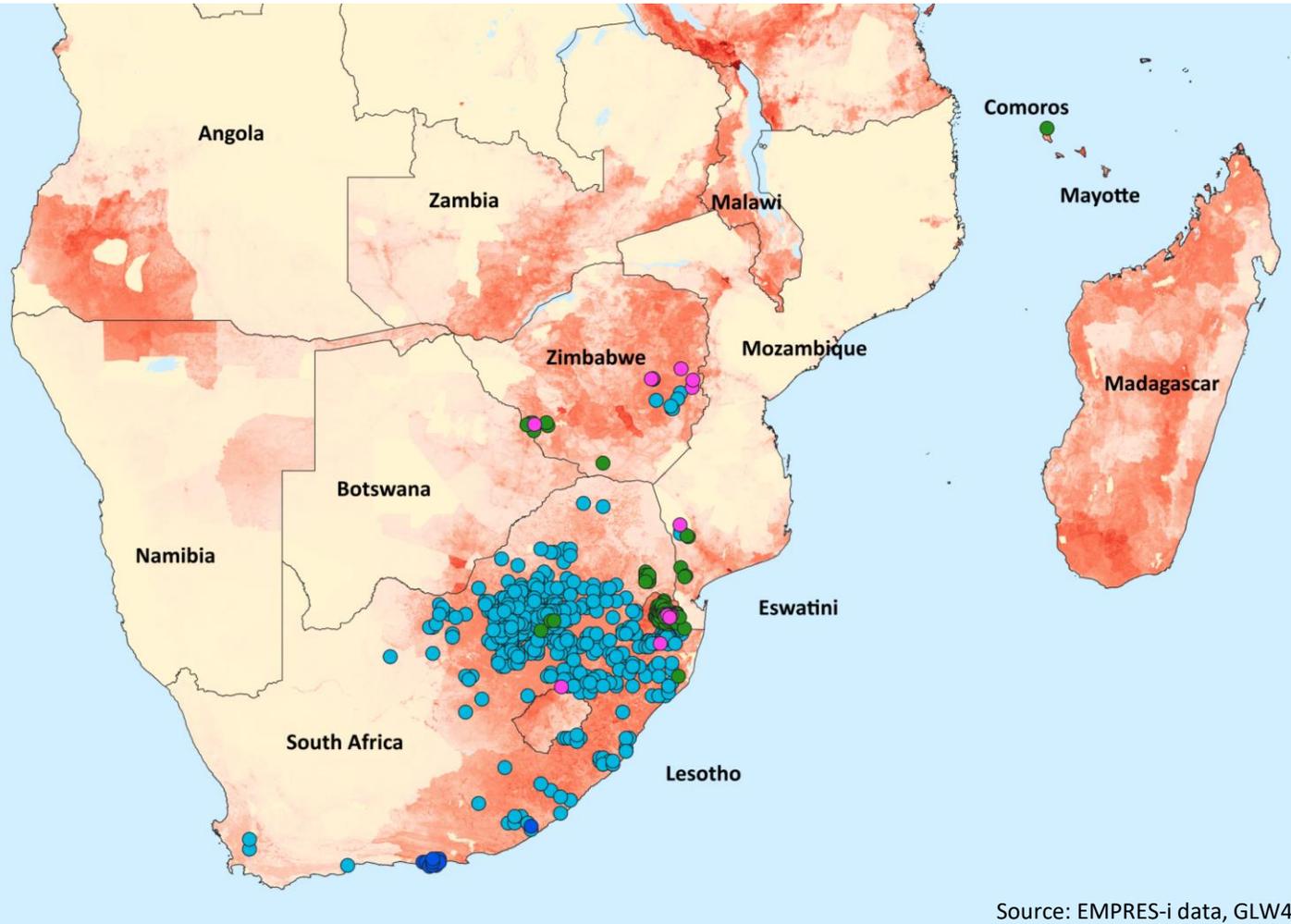
**FMD Situation Update – SADC Region (Feb 2026)**

- Sustained SAT1 & SAT2 circulation across SADC
- Some countries delay to update status following an outbreak, so the last column is a guide



Country	FMD serotype	Start Date	Report Date	Outbreak Status (According to the
Botswana	SAT1	25/01/2026	01/02/2026	Ongoing
Eswatini	SAT2	12/05/2025	26/01/2026	Ongoing
Eswatini	SAT1	19/09/2025	26/01/2026	Ongoing
Mozambique	SAT2	03/06/2025	28/01/2026	Ongoing
South Africa	SAT1	01/10/2025	03/02/2026	Ongoing
Zimbabwe	SAT1	05/01/2026	16/01/2026	Ongoing

# Geographic distribution of FMD virus in Southern Africa Region



Source: EMPRES-i data, GLW4

## FMD virus detections by serotype

01 January 2024 – 19 February 2026

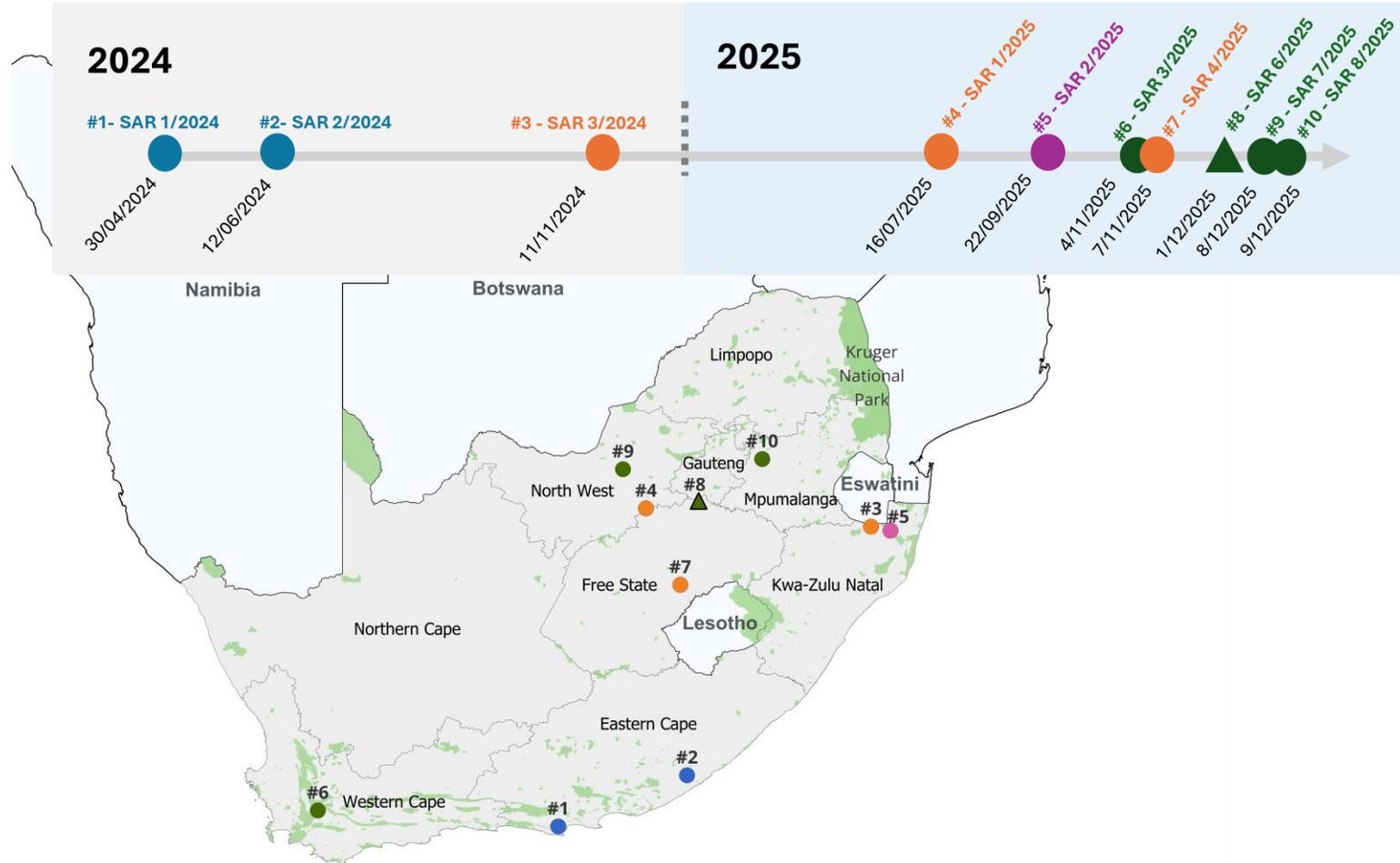
- Not available
- SAT1
- SAT2
- SAT3

FMD virus serotypes



Cattle density (heads/km<sup>2</sup>)

# Geographic distribution of FMD virus in South Africa



## FMD virus detections by serotype and toptype April 2024 - December 2025

- Cattle
- ▲ Pig
- SAT1 Topotype II
- SAT1 Topotype III
- SAT2 Topotype I
- SAT3 Topotype I

National Protected Areas are shown in light green. Source: WRLFMD report; UN World Map; South Africa Geo Portal, 2026).

# FMD Situation Update – South Africa

## South Africa Overview

- High outbreak burden in South Africa
- **24,400+** cases reported in 2025 (record high)
- 8/9 provinces affected, SAT1/SAT2/SAT3 present
- Mass vaccination campaign starting Feb 2026



Foot-and-mouth disease cases

## Economic Impacts in South Africa

- Beef exports projected to drop to 13,000 tons in 2026
- Export losses may reach R2.6 billion by end-2026
- Dairy sector losses exceed R1 billion
- Knock-on effect expected on the other countries in the subregion



# Key issues to note

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- The involvement of wildlife in the epidemiology of FMD in Southern Africa complicates effective disease management.
- Five of the seven FMD virus serotypes (O, A, SAT 1, SAT 2, and SAT 3) are currently present in Southern Africa, with varying geographic distributions.
- The extensive genetic diversity, encompassing over 60 strains across the seven serotypes, necessitates ongoing evaluation of vaccine effectiveness.
- The illegal movement of livestock across borders significantly contributes to the transmission of FMD within SADC countries.

## Key issues to note cont:

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- Ineffective prophylactic vaccination programs lead to disease re-emergence and further spread.
- Vaccination costs are notably high, especially when implemented in response to outbreaks.
- There is a low rate of sample submissions to WOAHP reference laboratories.
- Challenges in transporting samples to reference laboratories persist, as many countries lack the capacity for safe handling and transport of infectious materials.

# Reflection & Way Forward

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- The rising frequency and spread of TADs events in the region necessitate a coordinated, more vigorous, and sustained response from all countries.
- Transparency is crucial, given the unprecedented impact on the livestock sector, including export restrictions, job losses, and threats to livelihoods.
- There is a need to consider harmonizing vaccination programs, especially in border areas.
- Countries are encouraged to collaborate on joint post-vaccination sero-monitoring studies to assess vaccine efficacy.

# Reflection & Way Forward cont:

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- Research and development of new vaccine strains that closely match the circulating viruses in the region should be prioritized.
- It is expected that this meeting will inspire confidence in countries to implement robust systems for improved FMD management and facilitate open, candid discussions.
- FAO stands ready to provide technical assistance through its decentralized offices and headquarters.

# Reflection & Way Forward cont:

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## Success requires:

- Strong political will
- Appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks
- Effective veterinary services with technical capacities for animal disease control and compliance with international standards, and
- Adequate financing

# In Conclusion

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- Foot-and-mouth disease remains a **strategic regional risk**, with growing economic, trade, and livelihood impacts across Southern Africa.
- **No country can manage FMD alone**—transboundary movements and shared ecosystems demand coordinated regional solutions.
- Sustained progress requires **political leadership**, transparent reporting, and alignment of national policies with regional commitments.
- **Investment in prevention pays off**: risk-based vaccination, surveillance, and strong veterinary services are more cost-effective than crisis response.
- FAO, with WOAHA and partners, is committed to **supporting country-led action**, SADC Secretariat's regional coordination, and rapid response—**but success depends on national ownership and collective commitment**.



*Thank you*

