



FAO-USAID Global Health Security Program Project Inception Meeting in Fiji  
(OSRO/RAS/408/USA)

**Concept Note**

13–14 March 2024 | Suva, Fiji

**Background**

The Pacific region is diverse and unique, encompassing more than 22 countries and territories. Fourteen of these countries are supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands (FAO SAP), based in Apia, Samoa, with country offices in Suva, Fiji; Honiara, Solomon Islands; Port Villa, Vanuatu; and Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Fiji and other countries in the Pacific region face multiple challenges that hinder the growth of the livestock sector and impact the management of animal and public health-related issues, such as a lack of infrastructure and resources, underdeveloped and poorly resourced animal health systems, lack of animal health expertise and poor coordination between animal and human health sectors. Additionally, the region is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation. The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic highlighted the need for strong One Health systems to address complex health challenges. Pacific Island countries and territories are free from major transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and priority zoonoses, and their geographical attributes (islands) mean that prevention of disease entry is the main approach currently being implemented through border biosecurity and limited surveillance. As Fiji and most Pacific Islands are currently free from high-impact TADs and priority zoonoses, their approach to implementation of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is mainly based on prevention. To maintain this free status, effective border biosecurity, surveillance and early warning systems, and emergency preparedness and response are critical, and these capacities must be developed. Pacific countries also recognize the importance of the One Health approach to preventing TADs and controlling emerging infectious diseases. Disease emergency preparedness, including prevention, early detection and response, has been affirmed by the Pacific countries as a priority for the region during meetings of GF-TADs, including the most recent GF-TADs Meeting in 2023.

FAO is partnering with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the *technical assistance for animal health systems to address emerging and priority zoonotic diseases and health threats in Fiji and other Pacific countries* project.<sup>1</sup> The overall aim of the project is to contribute to strengthening animal health systems to reduce the risks and impacts of zoonoses, emerging disease threats, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and biothreats through a One Health and inclusive approach. To achieve its intended aim, the project must be implemented in close coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders. Therefore, FAO is organizing the project inception meeting with the following objectives.

**Objectives**

The main objectives of the inception meeting are to:

1. Officially inform representatives of government agencies and/or departments in charge of animal health in Fiji, the FAO SAP team, and key partners, of the project concept, objectives, and proposed activities.
2. Discuss and agree on priority activities, including planned activities for year 1.
3. Discuss and agree on implementation mechanisms, including coordination and roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Project code: OSRO/RAS/408/USA

With technical and financial support from



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### **Expected Outputs**

1. Agreed priority activities and implementation mechanisms.
2. Meeting report summarizing main discussion points and key outcomes.

### **Participants**

The workshop will invite approximately 40-50 representatives from the following government agencies and organizations.

#### **Fiji**

1. Ministry of Health and Medical Services
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways
3. Biosecurity Authority of Fiji
4. Fiji Centre for Disease Control

#### **Organizations**

1. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
2. FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands
3. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – Mission
4. Partnerships for a Healthy Region (PHR), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
5. Australian High Commission, Suva
6. Pacific Community (SPC) – Public, Animal and One Health
7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
8. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
9. World Health Organization (WHO)
10. World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

## Agenda

### FAO-USAID Global Health Security Program Project Inception Meeting in Fiji (OSRO/RAS/408/USA)

13–14 March 2024 | Banyan Room, Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji

Day 1: Project Outputs and Overview		
Time	Activity	Presenter/facilitator
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Regional Manager for ECTAD, FAO</li> <li>• Zema Semunegus, Mission Director, USAID</li> <li>• Dr Andrew Tukana, Permanent Secretary, MOAW</li> </ul>	M/C - MOAW
09:15 – 09:30	Introduction of the workshop	FAO
09:30 – 09:45	Introductory presentation of USAID GHS	April Peetz, USAID
09:45 – 10:30	Presentations by key government stakeholders on key One Health and animal health priorities	Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways Biosecurity Authority of Fiji
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshment	
11:00 – 11:15	Introduction to WHO Joint External Evaluation	WHO
11:15 – 12:15	Workshop: Alignment of priorities	FAO
12:15 – 12:30	Introduction of FAO – USAID partnership through ECTAD program	FAO
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 13:45	Presentation of project overview and the expected results	FAO
13:45 – 14:00	Introduction to World Café # 1	FAO
14:00 – 15:00	World Café # 1 round 1 – 3	All participants
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshment	
15:30 – 16:00	World Café # 1 round 4	All participants
16:00 – 16:30	World Café # 1 reporting back	Station facilitators
16:00 – 16:30	Plenary discussion and wrap up of Day 1	FAO

Day 2: Refining Country Work Plans, Next Steps and Stakeholder Coordination		
Time	Activity	Presenter/facilitator
09:00 – 09:10	Recap and reflection of Day 1	FAO
09:10 – 09:30	Presentation on a consolidated Year 1 planned activities	FAO
09:30 – 10:30	Facilitated discussion on Year 1 planned activities	FAO
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshment	
11:00 – 11:15	Introduction to Group Work Session	FAO
11:15 – 12:00	Group Work Session: implementation mechanisms	All participants
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 13:45	Introduction to World Café # 2	FAO
13:45 – 14:30	World Café # 2	All participants
14:30 – 15:00	World Café # 2 reporting back	Station facilitators
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshment	
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary discussion on coordination mechanism	FAO
16:00 – 16:30	Synthesis, Next Steps, and Workshop Conclusion	FAO and MOAW